

The Duality Continues

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Benjamin Engel
ASI Research Center

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U.S.-Sino relations continued to be a Jekyll and Hyde-like story with the two largest emitters of carbon working together in Paris during the climate change talks while simultaneously exchanging harsh words over the U.S. freedom of navigation operation that was carried out at the end of October. However, these developments are nothing entirely new as the two have engaged in a dualistic relationship of cooperation and competition regarding these respective issues for nearly all of 2015. A more recent trend is China's increasing interest in the Middle East and possible entrance into the international struggle against radical group now being called Daesh by many and also known as IS or ISIL. While China has yet to commit, it is a notable development worth monitoring over the next several months. Here the following we have summarized key topics areas highlighted by the U.S. and China during November 2015.

China to Join Fight Against Daesh?

The U.S. and China both agree on the need to resolve the issues in the Middle East and Africa, especially defeating the terrorist group Daesh. The U.S. stated that they have been making progress through military support, countering ISIL's finances, countering foreign fighter flows, exposing ISIL's true nature, and also providing humanitarian aid.¹ China not only agreed on the need to degrade the terrorists which threaten the bottom line of human civilization,² but also underscored the international community's need for communication between allies to avoid tension.³ According to China, since the coordination between countries has been stressed by the West, China has been encouraged to join as an ally. However, China is hesitating to join the fight against IS because it might encounter difficulties in finance and obtaining public support.⁴ In addition, the U.S. and

¹ UCR November Issue 2015 – Middle East and Africa Issues, Issue 8 pg. [34](#)

² Ibid, pg. [32](#)

³ Ibid, pg. [33](#)

⁴ Ibid, pg. [33](#)

China both addressed and criticized the attack in Mali. The U.S. highlighted ways to prevent terrorist attacks,⁵ whereas China strongly asserted that security should be guaranteed for the UN peacekeepers.⁶

Fallout after the Freedom of Navigation Operation

The issue of freedom of navigation in the South China Sea is still stirring up tension between China, the U.S., and countries in the region. The U.S. reaffirmed its strong commitment to maintain security and stability in the Asia-Pacific and reminded all of its willingness to continue to fly, sail, and operate wherever international law allows, while also expressing concerns about the developments advanced by China in the South China Sea.⁷ The U.S. also assured its partners that it would continue to provide support for maritime security,⁸ and also highlighted the importance of trilateral meetings between China, Japan, and South Korea to foster the rule of law in the region.⁹

China however considers these operations blatant provocations, and accused the U.S. of manipulating international law for its own interests noting that the justifications in the name of safeguarding freedom of navigation are not relevant.¹⁰ Beijing has said it will stand firmly against any attempt to undermine its sovereignty and security interests and further explained that ships from different countries routinely sail through the South China Sea and millions of barrels of oil also travel through the region without incident.¹¹ China also urged Japan to be cautious about their words and actions, and not interfere in the South China Sea affairs as this can effect and harm their bilateral relations.¹²

⁵ Ibid, pg. [40](#)

⁶ Ibid, pg. [34](#)

⁷ UCR September Issue 2015 – Sovereignty and Territorial Issues, Issue 9 pg. [41](#)

⁸ Ibid, pg. [44](#)

⁹ Ibid, pg. [44](#)

¹⁰ Ibid, pg. [41](#)

¹¹ Ibid, pg. [41](#)

¹² Ibid, pg. [45](#)



The Search for Economic Growth Opportunities

The U.S. believes China is encountering the limitation of its growth model which is dependent on investment and exports rather than domestic demand. U.S. Under Secretary Nathan Sheets pointed out that China's potential challenges and risks are significant. He mentioned that, "as growth slows, it arguably becomes more difficult to implement the very reforms that are essential to setting growth on a more stable footing."¹³ China responded by highlighting its five concepts of innovation, coordination, green, openness, and sharing development will not only set the direction for China's own future development, but also help to set the stage for the G20 partnership.¹⁴ Additionally, China is negotiating Free Trade Agreements with Korea and Japan as they lead the effort to form the RCEP.¹⁵

The two countries also sought concrete results on intellectual property rights concerns through the annual U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT) process. The U.S. obtained firm commitments from China in the areas of competition law, intellectual protect protection that will level playing field for American companies in China. Meanwhile Chinese banks are now free to resume purchasing information and communication technology (ICT) products.¹⁶

Major Climate Change Meeting in Paris

In the context of the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference which began in Paris at the end of November and the intense smog that has been affecting Beijing and other Chinese cities,¹⁷ the U.S. and Chinese governments are sticking to a narrative of cooperation on climate change.¹⁸ The Joint Presidential Statement on Climate Change that came in September and the Joint Announcement made last year were repeatedly touted as emblematic of U.S.-China cooperation and

¹³ UCR November Issue 2015 – Economic Relations, Issue 2 pg. [12](#)

¹⁴ Ibid, pg. [12](#)

¹⁵ Ibid, pg. [15](#)

¹⁶ Ibid, pg. [15](#)

¹⁷ UCR November Issue 2015 – Climate Change and Environmental Issues, Issue 5 pg. [22](#)

¹⁸ Ibid, pg. [25](#)

leadership by the White House.¹⁹ Despite some concerns in the U.S. about China's transparency in climate related record keeping²⁰ and continued Chinese defensiveness about outside criticisms,²¹ the two largest carbon emitters in the world have both reiterated their stated commitments to limiting emissions.

China's Vague Intentions on Human Rights

The U.S. commented on the imprisonment of a media rights activist Yang Maodong who was sentenced to six years in prison on charges related to his peaceful advocacy for human rights. The U.S. argued that China cannot achieve its stated aim of building a society based on the rule of law when it uses imprisonment as a tool to punish Chinese citizens' peaceful expression of their views.²² On the other hand, China declared that it would cooperate with international organizations to promote equality, human rights, and basic freedoms for all human kind.²³ In this manner, China will remain committed to the UN Charter,²⁴ donate to UNHCR,²⁵ and also continue participation in UN development programs.²⁶ In addition, China has decided to vote against a draft solution "Human Rights Defenders," since the definition of the term "human rights defenders" is vague and inconsistent through intergovernmental negotiations.²⁷

¹⁹ Ibid, pg. [23](#)

²⁰ Ibid, pg. [22](#)

²¹ Ibid, pg. [23](#)

²² UCR November Issue 2015 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues, Issue 3 pg. [19](#)

²³ Ibid, pg. [19](#)

²⁴ Ibid, pg. [19](#)

²⁵ Ibid, pg. [19](#)

²⁶ Ibid, pg. [20](#)

²⁷ Ibid, pg. [21](#)



Time Period: November 1 ~ November 30, 2015

Main Issues

1. U.S. – China Bilateral Relations: Both Countries Acknowledge Complicated Relationship and International Environment

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 3, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • November 7, 2015 – Remarks on "Strategic and Operational Innovation at a Time of Transition and Turbulence" at the Reagan National Defense Forum • November 16, 2015 – FACT SHEET : Advancing the Rebalance to Asia and the Pacific • November 30, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of China Before Bilateral Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 6, 2015 – China's frequent flyers shape neighborhood diplomacy

2. Economic Relations: U.S. Continues to Urge China to Move Away from an Export-oriented Economy and Encourage Domestic Consumption; China Seeks Means to Continue Economic Growth in External Environment

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2, 2015 – Interview With Askar Alimzhanov of Mir TV • November 2, 2015 – Preview of APEC 2015 • November 4, 2015 – Report to the Secretary of the Treasury from the Treasury Borrowing Advisory Committee of the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association • November 5, 2015 – Statement by Ambassador Froman on the release of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Text • November 5, 2015 – Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman to the 67th Virginia Conference on World Trade • November 5, 2015 – Remarks by Under Secretary Nathan Sheets on China's Rebalancing and Financial Reform at Columbia University • November 6, 2015 – Remarks by Deputy USTR Robert Holleyman to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Intellectual Property Center 2015 Global IP Summit • November 6, 2015 – Readout from a Treasury Spokesperson on a Call Between Secretary Jacob J. Lew and Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang • November 9, 2015 – The G-20 and the Global Economy • November 13, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • November 13, 2015 – Remarks by the President in Meeting on the Trans-Pacific 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 9, 2015 – Making good use of trade • November 17, 2015 – Asia-Pacific Free Trade Area: The Road to Better Economic Integration in the Region • November 18, 2015 – China, G20 and Global Governance • November 19, 2015 – APEC's focus should be economic integration • November 25, 2015 – Work Together to Open Up New Prospects for Win-Win Cooperation • November 26, 2015 – OP-ED: U.S. Court Goes Way too Far to Get Respect on Case of BoC



<p>Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 15, 2015 – Readout from a Treasury Spokesperson of Secretary Lew’s Meeting with Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang and Finance Minister Lou Jiwei at the G-20 Leaders Summit in Antalya • November 19, 2015 – Press Briefing by the Press Secretary, Ambassador Michael Froman, Ben Rhodes • November 24, 2015 – U.S. and Chinese delegations conclude the 26th session of the U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade 	
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3. Military and Security Relations: Both Countries Seek to Cooperate on Limiting Arms Race in Space; U.S. Rejects Idea of Double Standard on its Cyber Snooping; China Looks for International Cooperation on Fighting Terrorism in China

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 3, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • November 3, 2015 – Explanation of Vote Before the Vote at the 70th UN General Assembly First Committee on Draft Resolution L.47, "No First Placement of Weapons in Outer Space" • November 20, 2015 – Remarks on Effective Peacekeeping in the 21st Century, New Delhi, India • November 30, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • November 30, 2015 – Promoting the Long-Term Sustainability and Security of the Space Environment • November 30, 2015 – Challenges to Arms Control in Space and Pragmatic Way Ahead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2, 2015 – Explanation of Vote by Ambassador FU Cong of China on the UNGA First Committee Resolution L.26 Entitled "United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons" • November 3, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • November 10, 2015 – Washington 'showing anxiety in stance adopted toward Beijing' • November 16, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • November 26, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • November 26, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference • November 26, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference • November 30, 2015 – Speech by Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong at The Opening Ceremony of The Third ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on Space Security

4. Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues: The U.S. Calls for Transparency and Rule of Law in China; China Pledges More Support with UN Agencies, Touts Humanitarian Aid Provision

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 3, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • November 30, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 3, 2015 – Statement by Mr. Liang Heng of the Chinese Delegation at the Third Committee of the 70th GA under the Items 70 &71: Elimination of Racism and Right of Peoples to Self-Determination" • November 5, 2015 – Statement by Counselor Yao Shaojun at the Third Committee



	<p>of the 70th Session of the GA under the Agenda Item UNHCR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 5, 2015 – Remarks by Mr. XU Hong at the Panel Discussion on Multilateral Diplomacy at 70 • November 5, 2015 – Statement by Mr. Liang Heng of Chinese Delegation at the Third Committee of the 70th Session of the GA under Agenda Item Implementation of human rights instruments • November 10, 2015 – Statement by Minister Counselor Luo Jin of the Chinese Permanent Mission to the United Nations at the 2015 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities • November 17, 2015 – Statement by Counselor Yao Shaojun at the Third Committee of the 70th Session of the GA at the Interactive Dialogue with the President of the UN Human Rights Council • November 25, 2015 – Statement by Counsellor Yao Shaojun at the Third Committee of the 70th Session of the General Assembly before taking action on the draft resolution "Human Rights Defenders" • November 26, 2015 – False spy charges reflects defects of US democracy
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5. Climate Change and Environmental Issues: U.S. Active on Climate Change in Led Up to Paris Climate Talks; In China Worries Deepen Over Air Pollution

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 4, 2015 – Press Briefing by the Press Secretary Josh Earnest • November 5, 2015 – Statement from EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy on Decision Reached at the 27th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol / Decision Puts World on Path to 2016 Amendment to Phase Down HFCs • November 9, 2015 – Press Briefing by the Press Secretary Josh Earnest • November 10, 2015 – Remarks on Climate Change and National Security • November 10, 2015 – Interview With Tony Macrini of WNIS AM 790 • November 15, 2015 – Interview With Fareed Zakaria of CNN • November 24, 2015 – Live At State With Special Envoy for Climate Change Todd Stern on COP21 in Paris • November 24, 2015 – Live At State With Special Envoy for Climate Change Todd Stern on COP21 in Paris • November 24, 2015 – Press Call Briefing on the Paris Climate Change Summit • November 30, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest and Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communications Ben Rhodes • November 30, 2015 – Readout of the President’s Meeting with President Xi Jinping of China • November 30, 2015 – U.S.-China Joint Statement on COP21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 5, 2015 – The settlement results of the environmental cases filed by the public through "12369" tipline in July • November 5, 2015 – Statement by Mr. XU Hong at the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly: Report of the ILC on the work of its sixty-seventh session(Part I) • November 15, 2015 – Air quality to be improved in Northeast China, Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and surrounding area • November 24, 2015 – Interview: China shapes green economy for next 5 years: leading U.S. ecological expert • November 30, 2015 – Will Paris climate meet herald a new era?



6. Asia Pacific Issues: U.S. Emphasizes Importance of Rebalance Strategy and Pledges Support for Partners in Asia; China Holds Trilateral Summit with ROK and Japan, Highlights Desire for Cooperation with Neighbors

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • November 4, 2015 – Remarks at the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting - Plus (ADMM-Plus) • November 5, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • November 5, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary Carter at a Sailor Event aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt • November 12, 2015 – Press Briefing by the Press Secretary joined by Ambassador Rice and Ben Rhodes • November 17, 2015 – FACT SHEET: U.S. Building Maritime Capacity in Southeast Asia • November 19, 2015 – Emerging Asia in Transition • November 19, 2015 – FACT SHEET : 23rd Annual APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting • November 21, 2015 – FACT SHEET: U.S.-ASEAN Relations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2, 2015 – A hopeful step calls for substantial follow-ups • November 2, 2015 – Explanation of Vote by Ambassador FU Cong of China on the UNGA First Committee Resolution L.26 Entitled "United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons" • November 2, 2015 – Cartoon commentary on Premier Li's ROK visit 1: Injecting new energy into Northeast Asia cooperation • November 3, 2015 – Xi's visit to rejuvenate ties with Vietnam • November 4, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • November 5, 2015 – Singapore needs to establish strategic relation with China, expert says • November 11, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • November 16, 2015 – Expand Opportunities and Meet Challenges Together • November 22, 2015 – Remarks by H.E. Li Keqiang Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China At the 18th China-ASEAN Summit • November 26, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference on Nov. 26 • November 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference

7. Korean Peninsula: U.S. Continues to Monitor Situation in North Korea; China Pledges Commitment to Denuclearized Korean Peninsula

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 1, 2015 – Media Availability with Secretary of Defense Ash Carter at the Demilitarized Zone, South Korea • November 13, 2015 – Treasury Sanctions Supporters Of North Korea's Weapons Of Mass Destruction And Illicit Finance Networks • November 20, 2015 – Daily Press Briefings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • November 27, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference



8. Middle East and Africa Issue: U.S. Continues to Pressure Daesh and Looks for Political Solutions to Syrian Civil War; China Supports Efforts to Find Political Solution in Syria, But Balks at Becoming Directly Involved Militarily

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 1, 2015 – Meet the Press Transcript - November 1, 2015 • November 2, 2015 – The United States and Central Asia: Partners for the 21st Century • November 2, 2015 – Interview With Askar Alimzhanov of Mir TV • November 3, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • November 3, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • November 4, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • November 5, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • November 5, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • November 6, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • November 9, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • November 9, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • November 10, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • November 11, 2015 – The Battle for Zionism at the UN: Marking 40 Years Since the Historic Speech of the Honorable Chaim Herzog • November 12, 2015 – Remarks on the U.S. Strategy in Syria • November 13, 2015 – Press Availability with Tunisian Foreign Minister Taieb Baccouche • November 13, 2015 – Joint Statement by the Republic of Tunisia and the United States of America • November 14, 2015 – Press Availability with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura • November 15, 2015 – Meet the Press Transcript - November 15, 2015 • November 17, 2015 – Roundtable With Print Journalists • November 17, 2015 – Remarks to the Staff and Families of U.S. Embassy, Paris • November 17, 2015 – Remarks After His Meeting With French President Francois Hollande • November 17, 2015 – Interview With Lester Holt of NBC • November 17, 2015 – Interview With Lester Holt of NBC • November 17, 2015 – Daily Press Briefings • November 18, 2015 – Remarks at the 30th Overseas Security Advisory Council Annual Briefing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 3, 2015 – Statement by Mr. Liang Heng of the Chinese Delegation at the Third Committee of the 70th GA under the Items 70 & 71: Elimination of Racism and Right of Peoples to Self-Determination" • November 4, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • November 6, 2015 – Spotlight: Moscow, Washington adopt different stands on cause of Russian plane crash • November 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • November 16, 2015 – Stronger will essential in fight against terrorism • November 20, 2015 – Murder of hostages steels will to fight IS • November 20, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • November 24, 2015 – Prudence Needed over Decision to Fight IS • November 26, 2015 – Downing of jet must not derail anti-terror fight • November 26, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference • November 27, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • November 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • November 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 18, 2015 – Daily Press Briefings • November 18, 2015 – Daily Press Briefings • November 19, 2015 – Press Briefing by the Press Secretary, Ambassador Michael Froman, Ben Rhodes • November 23, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • November 24, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Colonel Warren via teleconference from Baghdad, Iraq • November 24, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Hollande of France in Joint Press Conference • November 25, 2015 – Treasury Sanctions Networks Providing Support to the Government of Syria, Including For Facilitating Syrian Government Oil Purchases from ISIL • November 30, 2015 – Daily Press Briefings 	
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9. Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes: U.S. Defends Freedom of Navigation Operation and Insists More are to Come; China Calls U.S. Operation a Provocation and Urges Japan to Stay Out of the South China Sea Issue; Leaders of China and Taiwan Meet

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2, 2015 – Joint Press Briefing by Secretary Carter and Minister Han Min-goo in Seoul, South Korea • November 3, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • November 4, 2015 – Remarks at the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting - Plus (ADMM-Plus) • November 4, 2015 – U.S.-Asia Policy Update • November 6, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • November 7, 2015 – Meeting Between Cross-Strait Leaders • November 12, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room • November 12, 2015 – Press Briefing by the Press Secretary joined by Ambassador Rice and Ben Rhodes • November 13, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • November 17, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Aquino of the Republic of the Philippines after Bilateral Meeting • November 19, 2015 – Press Briefing by the Press Secretary, Ambassador Michael Froman, Ben Rhodes • November 19, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and Prime Minister Abe of Japan Before Bilateral Meeting • November 21, 2015 – Joint Statement on the ASEAN-U.S. Strategic Partnership • November 23, 2015 – Readout of the Plenary Meeting of the Global Coalition to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • November 3, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • November 4, 2015 – US should respect China's sovereignty, core interests • November 3, 2015 – Xi's visit to rejuvenate ties with Vietnam • November 5, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • November 5, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • November 5, 2015 – Freedom of navigation a 'nonissue' and 'no excuse for provocations' • November 5, 2015 – Xi-Ma meet deserves the world's applause • November 7, 2015 – Xi-Ma meeting hailed as "historic page" in cross-Strait relations • November 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • November 11, 2015 – Washington losing leverage in S.China Sea • November 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference



<p>Counter-ISIL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• November 23, 2015 – Daily Press Briefings• November 30, 2015 – U.S.-Brunei High Level Officials' Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• November 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference• November 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference• November 16, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference• November 17, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference• November 23, 2015 – Premier's proposal clarifies stand on South China Sea• November 26, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference• November 26, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference• November 26, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference• November 26, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference• November 26, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference• November 26, 2015 – China urges U.S., Japan not to flex muscles on South China Sea
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Issue 1 – U.S. – China Bilateral Relations: Both Countries Acknowledge Complicated Relationship and International Environment	
United States	China
<p>• November 3, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “So speaking broadly, the U.S. and China have a very strong dialogue. We agree on many of the big issues. Climate change, economic security, regional stability are all issues that we discuss with China. I won’t speak to President Xi’s role, but I will say that our ongoing dialogue, I believe, is constructive to both our nations.”</p> <p>• November 7, 2015 – Remarks on "Strategic and Operational Innovation at a Time of Transition and Turbulence" at the Reagan National Defense Forum (Department of Defense) Quote: "The U.S.-China relationship will be complex as we continue to balance our competition and cooperation. There are opportunities to improve understanding and to reduce risk with China, for example we’ve agreed up to four confidence-building agreements, including one meant to prevent dangerous air-to-air encounters. I also accepted this past week an invitation from China’s President Xi to visit China in the New Year. There, we will surely discuss our differences, but we can also talk about the many opportunities we have to work together to address common challenges, such as piracy, humanitarian disasters, climate change, among many others.”</p> <p>• November 16, 2015 – FACT SHEET : Advancing the Rebalance to Asia and the Pacific (White House, Statements and Releases) Quote: “Since launching the Rebalance (to Asia), we have made significant progress in advancing this vision. Among a number of accomplishments, we have [...] Fostered a more durable and productive relationship with China, defined by expanded areas of practical cooperation on global challenges, and constructive management of differences.”</p> <p>• November 30, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of China Before Bilateral Meeting (White House, Statements and Releases) Quote: “We’ve also been able to set up a number of key forums for us to find additional areas of cooperation through our Strategic & Economic Dialogues and our military-to-military exchanges. We’ve been able to enhance security, help to strengthen the global economy, and manage conflicts in various hotspots around the world. And I want to particularly express our condolences over the killing of a recent Chinese hostage by ISIL.”</p>	<p>• November 6, 2015 – China's frequent flyers shape neighborhood diplomacy (People’s Daily) Quote: “There is a new look and feel to China's diplomacy. Never before have China's leaders been so keen to reach out to the world beyond their borders. [...] Relations with the United States are a ‘new model.’ [...] The international environment is increasingly complicated, with suspicions raised over every move China makes. ‘Asia Rebalancing,’ the most important U.S. strategic adjustment since the end of the Cold War, complicates China's periphery, as the United States seeks to extend its influence in Asia.”</p>



Issue 2 – Economic Relations: U.S. Continues to Urge China to Move Away from an Export-oriented Economy and Encourage Domestic Consumption; China Seeks Means to Continue Economic Growth in External Environment

United States	China
<p>• November 2, 2015 – Interview With Askar Alimzhanov of Mir TV (State Department) Quote: “As long as people are moving in that direction (high standards of the quality of the workplace), we don’t care what kind of association or agreement they have. And we invite people to come join other initiatives, like the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the TPP. We welcome China, we welcome Russia, we welcome other countries who would like to join, as long as they want to raise the standards and live up to the highest standards of protecting people and doing business openly and transparently and accountably.”</p> <p>• November 2, 2015 – Preview of APEC 2015 (State Department) Quote: “China is pursuing a broad-based economic reform agenda. It’s a challenging process of shifting the growth model – one dependent on investment and exports to domestic demand – and it’s a natural process you would anticipate that when you go through a major economic policy transition like this that issues will arise. They seem committed to the process. I think though the IMF and other economies understand their commitment and are supportive of their commitment to that reform process.”</p> <p>• November 4, 2015 – Report to the Secretary of the Treasury from the Treasury Borrowing Advisory Committee of the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (Department of the Treasury) Quote: “After a large drag in the first quarter, foreign trade has been basically neutral for growth in the second and third quarters. While concerns about Chinese growth continue to cloud the global outlook, export and industrial production data from several other Asian emerging market economies suggest a turn in the technology product cycle is supporting somewhat firmer global growth. In trade-weighted terms, the dollar has been relatively stable over the past three months, providing some respite for US manufacturers.”</p> <p>• November 5, 2015 – Statement by Ambassador Froman on the release of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Text (Office of the U.S. Trade Representative) Quote: “I would also encourage everyone to take a moment to consider the costs of not moving forward with this agreement. U.S. leadership in writing the rules of the road for trade in the Asia-Pacific region is critical. After all, this isn’t everyone’s approach to trade. Other countries, such as China, are already moving forward with deals that don’t reflect our interests and our values.”</p>	<p>• November 9, 2015 – Making good use of trade (China Daily) Quote: “The latest data show China is set to become the biggest trading partner of the US this year, eclipsing Canada for the first time, as low prices have slashed the value of the US’ energy exports to its neighbor. The symbolic importance of such strengthened trade relations between the world’s two largest economies is obvious. On the one hand, stronger trade between China and the US will give a huge and much-needed boost to global trade, a long-term growth engine. On the other hand, closer trade relations will make the world’s two largest economies more interdependent and enable them to avoid unnecessary trade frictions. Yet the really encouraging news is the current size of their bilateral trade represents a milestone rather than a peak, because Chinese consumers are just beginning to demonstrate their growing appetite for imports.”</p> <p>• November 17, 2015 – Asia-Pacific Free Trade Area: The Road to Better Economic Integration in the Region (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “A Free Trade Area for the Asia-Pacific will not only provide an important driving force for the promotion of free trade and investment, it will also take us closer to the Bogor Goals. And it shows the way for Asia-Pacific economic and trade cooperation beyond 2020. This illustrates the importance of such a free trade area to APEC, now and in the future. [...] China is open to all cooperation proposals that promote regional economic integration and common prosperity. We encourage all economies to adopt the following principles in advancing Asia-Pacific economic integration. First, we should support the multilateral trading system, and push forward the Doha Round of world trade talks. Second, we should be mindful of the different level of development among economies in the region, and show respect to the special demands of developing economies. Third, we should promote coordination and synergy among different free trade arrangements to achieve win-win cooperation, so as to avoid fragmentation, conglomeration and politicisation of regional economic cooperation.”</p>



• **November 5, 2015 – Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman to the 67th Virginia Conference on World Trade** ([Office of the U.S. Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “To ensure the free flow of data or information across borders, TPP contains first-ever commitments that ban forced localization. It keeps the Internet open and free, while ensuring that consumer protections can be enforced. And it encourages cooperation between TPP countries on those consumer protections, including privacy and cybersecurity. There are many first-ers in TPP, and not one of them came easily. This is the first agreement to impose disciplines on state-owned enterprises so that they have to compete on a level playing field against our private firms. This agreement also levels the playing field for our workers and firms by raising standards in other countries, including labor, environmental and intellectual property rights standards.”

• **November 5, 2015 – Remarks by Under Secretary Nathan Sheets on China’s Rebalancing and Financial Reform at Columbia University** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “I believe Chinese policymakers have the scope to manage the transition ahead. They have committed to a strong set of policies to reform their economy. But the potential challenges and downside risks are significant; as growth slows, it arguably becomes even more difficult to implement the very reforms that are essential to setting growth on a more stable footing. My hope and advice for my Chinese counterparts is to continue and accelerate the reform agenda in order to get the kind of sustainable economic growth that they aspire to, and that the world needs. Our candor on these issues is a reflection of our investment in China’s success. We want to see China emerge as a peaceful, stable, and prosperous country that is a responsible player in global affairs.”

• **November 6, 2015 – Remarks by Deputy USTR Robert Holleyman to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Intellectual Property Center 2015 Global IP Summit** ([Office of the U.S. Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “According to the IP Commission’s estimates, somewhere between 50 to 80 percent of intellectual property theft in all categories—both globally and in the United States—can be traced back to China. Therefore, the rules that China adopts to promote IPR protection directly impact our economy. [...] However, the pace of reform in China has been halting and is often at odds with the facts on the ground. China continues to adopt measures to promote indigenous innovation that contradict its stated commitment to promote intellectual property protection and enforcement.”

• **November 18, 2015 – China, G20 and Global Governance** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “We hope that the dynamics of deeper engagement with the group through the Presidency will help to create a better external environment for and give a powerful impetus to our endeavours in further reform and opening up at a crucial juncture in the country’s development, as we are approaching the first year of the 13th Five Year Plan. In many ways, the five concepts of innovative, coordinated, green, open and sharing development will not only set the direction for China’s own future development, but also help to set the stage for our G20 Presidency next year and our partnership with the rest of the world for a long time to come.”

• **November 19, 2015 – APEC’s focus should be economic integration** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “Chinese policymakers will not backpedal on their efforts to foster an open, transparent, fair and highly efficient market environment. As Xi pointed out, ‘China’s policy on welcoming foreign investment will not change, nor will its protection of the legitimate rights and interests of foreign invested companies, or its commitment to provide better services for them. [...] If it is to avoid any further slowdown as it braces for the slowest expansion since 2009 this year, the APEC members must work together to find a way to put the Asia-Pacific economy on the right track, as APEC now accounts for more than half of the global economic output and nearly half of world trade. It is China’s belief that accelerating the realization of the Free Trade Agreement of the Asia-Pacific, which would be the world’s largest free trade area, and advancing regional economic integration are the urgent tasks that APEC should strive to accomplish, so as to provide a driving force for sustained global growth.”

• **November 25, 2015 – Work Together to Open Up New Prospects for Win-Win Cooperation** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “First, we need to push for early completion of connectivity projects. One of the priorities of the 16+1 cooperation is to strengthen regional transport infrastructure in synergy with the Belt and Road initiative. [...] Second, we need to give a greater play to production-capacity cooperation. The CEE region now faces the task to upgrade its transportation, electricity and other infrastructure as well as industrial equipment. [...] Third, we need to create new highlights in the trade of special agricultural products. [...] Fourth, we need to widen channels to address the financing issue. Since China and CEE countries have different legal frameworks, our collaborative projects may encounter some difficulties.”



• **November 6, 2015 – Readout from a Treasury Spokesperson on a Call Between Secretary Jacob J. Lew and Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “Secretary Lew noted the important outcomes achieved during the visit, including those on the international financial architecture and China’s role in the multilateral development banks, national security review, and technology policy. Secretary Lew reiterated the United States’ support for the inclusion of the renminbi in the International Monetary Fund (IMF)’s Special Drawing Rights (SDR) basket, provided the currency meets the IMF’s existing criteria in its SDR review. The conversation reflected the importance of China moving more rapidly towards a market determined exchange rate in an orderly manner.”

• **November 9, 2015 – The G-20 and the Global Economy** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “The link between strengthening the middle class and supporting overall growth is particularly clear for China – and as the world’s second largest economy, China’s capacity to make progress on this will be critical for the future of the global economy. China has recognized that an export-driven strategy is no longer sustainable for an economy of China’s size. [...] We continue to encourage China’s leadership to look at other options, like consumer-oriented tax cuts, as well as accelerating dividends from state-owned enterprises to pay for a more robust social safety net and for extending urban social services to migrants from the provinces.”

• **November 13, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “When it comes to China, we know that China would love to keep those (environmental, labor, human rights, etc) standards low. We know that that would create ample opportunity for Chinese businesses that also don’t adhere to labor standards and civil rights standards and human rights standards and environmental standards — that by lowering those standards or keeping them low, China benefits. But by raising those standards and opening up markets around the world to American goods, you’re going to create significant economic opportunity right here in the United States for middle-class workers. And that’s the essence of the President’s strategy.”

• **November 26, 2015 – OP-ED: U.S. Court Goes Way too Far to Get Respect on Case of BoC** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Now, before the court proceeds, it is necessary that the U.S. judicial system to step back and set its mind straight. Don’t forget that there are also U.S. banks operating in China, and they, these foreign branches in China, need to rely on China. [...] Americans always believe they are the police officers of the world. [...] It believes it can cross the line. [...] Since the U.S. judicial system does not embrace the least knowledge of respecting the basic principles of other countries’ sovereignty, let it be held in contempt by Bank of China.”



• **November 13, 2015 – Remarks by the President in Meeting on the Trans-Pacific Partnership** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “Economically, the Asia Pacific region is the most dynamic, the most populous and fastest-growing region of the world. And strategically, it is a region that’s absolutely vital to our economic and national security interests in the 21st century. We’ve been working hard to increase the U.S. presence and focus in the Asia Pacific region. We are a Pacific power. Some of our closest alliances are in this region. [...] The 12 nations that are party to this agreement represent 40 percent of the world’s GDP [...] And the good news is, is that these countries recognize that America is, in fact, going to be in the region for a long time. They’re the partner that — we are the partner that they want. And this agreement reflects the kinds of high standards that we’ve been shooting for.”

• **November 15, 2015 – Readout from a Treasury Spokesperson of Secretary Lew’s Meeting with Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang and Finance Minister Lou Jiwei at the G-20 Leaders Summit in Antalya** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “Secretary Lew, Vice Premier Wang, and Minister Lou discussed the direction of economic reform in China, and Secretary Lew reiterated the importance of China supporting household income and rebalancing towards consumption-led growth. The meeting built on their telephone conversation ahead of the G-20, in which Secretary Lew urged China to continue financial reform and move toward a market-determined exchange rate system in a responsible manner and discussed President Xi’s pledge in September to avoid competitive devaluations and not to weaken China’s currency in order to boost its exports. Secretary Lew added that the United States supports China’s presidency of the G-20 in 2016 and looks forward to working closely with China to promote strong, sustainable, and balanced global growth and address the shortfall in global aggregate demand. He discussed the important role climate finance, consistent with high environmental and other standards of existing international financial institutions, can play in meeting development objectives.”



• **November 19, 2015 – Press Briefing by the Press Secretary, Ambassador Michael Froman, Ben Rhodes** ([Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “Well, I think over the course of the last several years there have been literally dozens of trade agreements negotiated in this region. For example, China is involved in negotiating FTAs with Korea and Japan. They’ve recently completed one with Australia. They, of course, are leading the effort to have the RCEP trade agreement. Our approach is TPP, which we think sets high standards for the region, the 12 countries involved — the 12 currently APEC countries involved represent about 40 percent of the global economy. And in fact, we went into TPP very much with the thought in mind that if you could have a platform to which other countries over time who are able and willing to meet the high standards which all 12 of us agree should be part of TPP, and consistent with our own domestic processes, which in our case means consulting with and ultimately having approval of Congress, could potentially expand and deal with some of those issues of clarifying rules for the region as a whole to address the spaghetti bowl issue.”

• **November 24, 2015 – U.S. and Chinese delegations conclude the 26th session of the U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade** ([Office of the U.S. Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “We seek concrete results through the annual JCCT process, and this year’s JCCT produced meaningful progress on some key issues facing a range of U.S. stakeholders. We obtained firm commitments from China in the areas of competition law, intellectual property protection, standards setting, and environmental conservation that will level the playing field for our companies in China. Significantly, in the area of technology policy, we concluded a year of intensive engagement around proposed measures in the banking sector, by confirming that banks in China are free to resume purchasing information and communication technology (ICT) products of their choosing. While more needs to be done, we achieved significant outcomes that will benefit and help level the playing field for American businesses in China and promote the growth of China’s own innovation economy,” said U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman. ”



Issue 3 – Military and Security Relations: Both Countries Seek to Cooperate on Limiting Arms Race in Space; U.S. Rejects Idea of Double Standard on its Cyber Snooping; China Looks for International Cooperation on Fighting Terrorism in China

United States	China
<p>• November 3, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “The U.S. conducts freedom of navigation movements all over the world. I believe in 2004, we conducted 18. In terms of individual operations, I’m not going to speak to that from this podium.”</p> <p>• November 3, 2015 – Explanation of Vote Before the Vote at the 70th UN General Assembly First Committee on Draft Resolution L.47, “No First Placement of Weapons in Outer Space” (Mission to the United Nations) Quote: “Mr. Chairman, my delegation will vote ‘No’ on draft resolution L.47, ‘No first placement of weapons in outer space’ (‘NFP’). In considering the Russian Federation’s NFP initiative, the United States took seriously the criteria for evaluating space-related transparency and confidence-building measures, TCBMs, that were established in the 2013 consensus report of the Group of Governmental Experts, GGE, study of outer space TCBMs. That study was later endorsed by the full General Assembly in Resolutions 68/50 and 69/38, both of which the United States co-sponsored with Russia and China, as well as a resolution that is being considered this year in the First Committee.”</p> <p>• November 20, 2015 – Remarks on Effective Peacekeeping in the 21st Century, New Delhi, India (Mission to the United Nations) Quote: “Malaysia announced significant infantry, police, and engineering capabilities. Finland pledged multiple military units, including special forces. Chile – helicopters, hospitals, and engineering units. Colombia declared its intent to deploy multiple infantry battalions over the next few years. And China announced that it will establish a significant standby force – to be ready to deploy immediately in times of crises. All told, leaders from every part of the world pledged [...] In total, they committed to providing nearly 50,000 additional troops and police to UN peacekeeping.”</p> <p>• November 30, 2015 – Daily Press Briefings (State Department) Quote: “Q: Do you have anything on U.S.-China cyber talk at the first ministerial level dialogue? A: Dialogue is always important, and China is an important partner. So of course we’re encouraged by a dialogue at all levels. On specifics on that, though, I’d refer you to the department that runs it.”</p>	<p>• November 2, 2015 – Explanation of Vote by Ambassador FU Cong of China on the UNGA First Committee Resolution L.26 Entitled “United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons” (Permanent Mission to the UN) Quote: “The Chinese delegation will vote against Resolution L.26, entitled ‘United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons’, tabled by Japan. I would like to explain China’s positions on the following issues. First is the issue of moratorium on the production of the fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices as contained in OP15. [...] Second is the issue of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. [...] we do not want to see the issue of humanitarianism taken advantage of by a certain country, and used as a tool to obscure and distort history”</p> <p>• November 3, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: The First Committee of the UN General Assembly voted on a Japan-drafted resolution calling for nuclear disarmament. The resolution notes that this year marks the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and invites world leaders to visit these two cities. China voted against the resolution. What is China’s position? A: Japan has been introducing in the First Committee resolutions on nuclear disarmament every year for several years in a row. This year, however, it crammed into the resolution a lot of contents painting a devastating picture of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings while forgetting about its historical responsibility. The keynote of the resolution is wrong, and its viewpoints are even less worth refuting. The fact that none of the five nuclear powers and neighbors of Japan endorsed this year’s resolution speaks volumes. It needs to be stressed that what China opposes is not the international process of nuclear disarmament. On the contrary, China stays committed to complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. This position remains unchanged. The Chinese side will continue to support the nuclear disarmament motions proposed by the Non-Aligned Movement this year.”</p>



• **November 30, 2015 – Promoting the Long-Term Sustainability and Security of the Space Environment** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “With each successive Workshop, we have made progress in our understanding of the many issues affecting space security, and I hope we can build upon the success of these previous Workshops over the coming days. However, the long-term sustainability of the space environment is at serious risk from the growing problem of space debris and irresponsible actions. Therefore, we must work together to address this urgent problem in a spirit of pragmatic cooperation. I believe that transparency and confidence-building measures are the correct place to start.”

• **November 30, 2015 – Challenges to Arms Control in Space and Pragmatic Way Ahead** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “One regional example of our cooperation in this area is our ongoing coordination with our Chinese co-hosts on orbital collisions. The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has provided the United States with email contact information for the appropriate Chinese entity responsible for spacecraft operations and conjunction assessment, allowing this organization to receive Close Approach Notifications directly from the U.S. Department of Defense. This lays the ground work for a much faster process for sharing information, which reduces the probability of, and facilitates effective responses to, orbital collisions, orbital break-ups and other events that might increase the probability of accidental collisions in outer space.”

• **November 10, 2015 – Washington 'showing anxiety in stance adopted toward Beijing'** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: “Carter (US Defense Secretary) said, ‘In the face of Russia's provocations and China's rise, we must embrace innovative approaches to protect the United States and strengthen that international order.’ [...] On the same day, China and the US staged their first joint military drill in history in the Atlantic Ocean, which lasted for six hours. Each side sent three warships. [...] Fan (US studies researcher) said, ‘Carter's remarks and the US military's recent moves in the South China Sea demonstrate their anxiety in terms of dealing with China.’”

• **November 16, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “East Turkestan terrorist forces headed by the ETIM have launched a wave of terrorist attacks on China in recent years, causing major casualties. Its harmful nature is clear for all to see. The ETIM also poses increasingly serious security threats to the international community. [...] When they return, they threaten not only China's national security but also the security and stability of relevant nations and regions. The international community should incorporate the fight against East Turkestan terrorist forces headed by the ETIM as an integral part of the international campaign against terrorism.”

• **November 26, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “In accordance with relevant UN resolutions, China has deployed over 60 vessels to the Gulf of Aden and the waters off the Somali coast in 21 escort missions since 2008. In the process of escorting, we encountered real difficulties in replenishing soldiers and resupplying fuel and food, and found it really necessary to have nearby and efficient logistical support. China and Djibouti are friendly countries. We are consulting with each other on the building of logistical facilities in Djibouti, which will better serve Chinese troops when they carry out international peacekeeping operations, escort ships in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off the Somali coast and perform humanitarian rescue. It is of great significance for the Chinese troops in their performance of international obligations to safeguard international and regional peace and stability.”



• **November 26, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defence](#))

Quote: "Q: Recently, there have been several terrorist incidents involving Chinese nationals. We have noticed the Chinese armed forces have conducted joint anti-terrorism exercises within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) for many times. Will such joint anti-terrorism exercises be conducted beyond the scope of the SCO? For example, will China hold joint anti-terrorism exercises with European countries or the US? According to Russian media reports, an official source of Russia disclosed that China and Russia had reached a deal on China's purchase of 24 Su-35 fighter jets with a total value of 2 billion U.S. dollars. Could you please confirm?"

A: The Chinese military is committed to international anti-terrorism cooperation. [...] The Chinese side is always open to holding joint anti-terrorism exercise and training with foreign armed forces. [...] As for the second question, both China and Russia are willing to carry out the Su-35 aircraft cooperation project."

• **November 26, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defence](#))

Quote: "Recently, four Chinese nationals were cruelly killed by terrorists when abroad. [...] Terrorism is the common enemy of humanity; China has always been opposed to terrorism in all forms and is committed to enhancing counter-terrorism cooperation in the international community. The Chinese military shoulders the responsibility of counter-terrorism and we will do our part in accordance with the overall arrangement of the state. The Chinese military has the resolve and capability to safeguard national sovereignty, security and developing interests."

• **November 30, 2015 – Speech by Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong at The Opening Ceremony of The Third ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on Space Security** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "To ensure space security, major countries should lead by example, foster a sense of community of shared future, discard the mentality of pursuing absolute security and firmly prevent weaponization and arms race in outer space to ensure that all countries can enjoy a peaceful and secure outer space and benefit from the peaceful uses of it."



Issue 4 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues: The U.S. Calls for Transparency and Rule of Law in China; China Pledges More Support with UN Agencies, Touts Humanitarian Aid Provision

United States	China
<p>• November 3, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “Q: It’s – China – it’s not exactly the same thing, but there’s a report that Chinese state-owned companies have begun running networks of radio stations that broadcast sort of Chinese-friendly news and opinion, but that do so, including in the United States, in a manner which obscures the fact that they are ultimately controlled by the Chinese state. Do you have anything on that?”</p> <p>A: So I’ve seen that report. Transparency is important to us, but also, I’d say the United States welcomes a diverse group of media views.”</p> <p>• November 30, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “Q: Last week there were some Chinese activists who were sentenced, including a media rights activist called Yang Maodong, and – but also a journalist who was released. I wondered if you had any comment on that.”</p> <p>A: A Chinese court has sentenced Yang Maodong to six years in prison on charges related to his peaceful advocacy for human rights. The trial fell short of internationally accepted standards of due process. Particularly disturbing was [...] Mr. Yang and his attorneys were not given a chance to defend against. [...] China cannot achieve its stated aim of building a rule-of-law society when it uses imprisonment as a tool to punish Chinese citizens’ peaceful expression of their views.”</p>	<p>• November 3, 2015 – Statement by Mr. Liang Heng of the Chinese Delegation at the Third Committee of the 70th GA under the Items 70 & 71: Elimination of Racism and Right of Peoples to Self-Determination (Permanent Mission to the UN) Quote: “The Chinese delegation supports the statement made by South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and has taken note of the reports submitted by the Secretary General under this agenda items. [...] At present, many countries are witnessing a resurgence of such phenomena as prejudice, xenophobia and racial discrimination; new forms of racism including Islam-phobia, neo-Nazism and skinhead movement are causing greater harm. [...] What we need to do is to take measures in political, legal, economic, administrative and educational areas in order to eliminate these causes so as to realize genuine equality, human rights and basic freedoms for people of all races and all countries.”</p> <p>• November 5, 2015 – Statement by Counselor Yao Shaojun at the Third Committee of the 70th Session of the GA under the Agenda Item UNHCR (Permanent Mission to the UN) Quote: “China has provided on many occasions and in many forms humanitarian supplies and cash assistance to the people of Syria and Syrian refugees overseas with the cumulative value of over 230 million RMB yuan (about 37 million US dollars). Recently, China made the decision to provide another batch of humanitarian assistance totaling 100 million RMB yuan (about 16 million US dollars) to Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. In 2015, the Chinese government has donated 800,000 US dollars to UNHCR. China will continue to strengthen cooperation with UNHCR and other relevant UN agencies and work together with the international community.”</p> <p>• November 5, 2015 – Remarks by Mr. XU Hong at the Panel Discussion on Multilateral Diplomacy at 70 (Permanent Mission to the UN) Quote: “In face of new international environment, China will stay committed to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and endeavor to help make the international order and international system more just and equitable, especially increase the representation and say of emerging markets and developing countries in the international governance system. [...] China announced at the annual session to launch the China-AALCO exchange and research program on international law. In July this year, the first training course took place in Xia’men and 22 trainees from 14 Asian and African countries participated.”</p>



• **November 05, 2015 – Statement by Mr. Liang Heng of Chinese Delegation at the Third Committee of the 70th Session of the GA under Agenda Item Implementation of human rights instruments** ([Permanent Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “More than a year has elapsed since the 68th session of the GA adopted the resolution on ‘Strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system’. In this connection, China would like to share the following views on the work of treaty bodies in general and the follow-up to the said resolution in particular: First, on the full participation of States parties in the follow-up to resolution 68/268. [...] Two, on activities and mandates of treaty bodies. [...] Three, on the participation of the civil society in the activities of treaty bodies. [...] Next month, the Committee against Torture will consider China’s sixth report on the implementation of the Convention against Torture. We look forward to a constructive dialogue with the CAT [...]”

• **November 10, 2015 – Statement by Minister Counselor Luo Jin of the Chinese Permanent Mission to the United Nations at the 2015 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities** ([Permanent Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “China always supports and takes an active part in various technical support and cooperation activities carried out by the UN development system. We have been providing voluntary contribution to the best of our capability to the funds, programmes and agencies of the UN development system. In 2016, China will continue to make such donations.”

• **November 17, 2015 – Statement by Counselor Yao Shaojun at the Third Committee of the 70th Session of the GA at the Interactive Dialogue with the President of the UN Human Rights Council** ([Permanent Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “On the Council’s work in the future, China would like to share the following views: Firstly, HRC’s working atmosphere should be improved. [...] Secondly, diversity should be respected when it comes to countries’ efforts to advance human rights, and all types of human rights should be promoted in a balanced manner. [...] Thirdly, prudence is needed in taking forward the reform of the Council’s working method.”



• **November 25, 2015 – Statement by Counsellor Yao Shaojun at the Third Committee of the 70th Session of the General Assembly before taking action on the draft resolution "Human Rights Defenders"** ([Permanent Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: "It is our (China) view that since the term 'human rights defenders' lacks a clear and uniform definition reached through intergovernmental negotiations, different countries have different views as to what kind of people qualify as 'human rights defenders' [...] China attaches great importance to the draft resolution tabled by Norway. We took part in the consultations on the draft resolution in a positive and constructive spirit and proposed amendments based on the above reasoning, including proposing to return to the previous consensus text for certain paragraphs. Although sponsor symbolically responded to some of the amendments, unfortunately, our core amendments have not been accepted by the sponsor. [...] Based on these reasons, China has no choice but to vote against this draft resolution."

• **November 26, 2015 – False spy charges reflects defects of US democracy** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "If similar cases take place in China, there will be extensive criticism and requirements by governments to make corrections. We cannot assert that US democracy and the rule of law are fake, but obviously they have major defects. The judicial system can easily be utilized for political ends. [...] The US claims it is a country that safeguards human rights more than anyone else and is a model of democracy and law. But it's time for the US to make some self-examination and rectification."



Issue 5 – Climate Change and Environmental Issues: U.S. Active on Climate Change in Led Up to Paris Climate Talks; In China Worries Deepen Over Air Pollution

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 4, 2015 – Press Briefing by the Press Secretary Josh Earnest (White House, Press Briefings) Quote: “We continue to expect that China remains committed to cutting carbon pollution and making a constructive contribution to this international effort. I think what it probably does show, though, is the need for strong transparency provisions as a component of the Paris agreement; that we are going to need countries to show up to Paris prepared to make specific commitments, but also be prepared to explain how they’re going to document their adherence to those commitments. So transparency will be an important element of the negotiations in those talks.” November 5, 2015 – Statement from EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy on Decision Reached at the 27th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol / Decision Puts World on Path to 2016 Amendment to Phase Down HFCs (Environmental Protection Agency) Quote: “A 2016 amendment to the Montreal Protocol to phase down HFCs will achieve substantial greenhouse gas reductions and could avoid up to 0.5 degrees Celsius of warming by 2100. Reaching agreement on this decision by the Parties will pave the way to help all countries transition to alternatives and away from HFCs. It is a significant accomplishment for climate action on the road to the Paris Climate Conference later this month and sends a strong signal that the international community can come together to confront some of the world’s greatest environmental challenges and continue progress toward cutting global greenhouse gas emissions.” November 9, 2015 – Press Briefing by the Press Secretary Josh Earnest (White House, Press Briefings) Quote: “One of the things that’s notable about the commitment that China made to cap their carbon emissions is that it was going to require investment in new technology to generate power in that country. And one source of that power generation is nuclear power plants, and those are nuclear power plants that will be constructed at least in part by U.S. companies. So this is economic growth and jobs that are being created here in the United States because of this global commitment to doing something about climate change.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 5, 2015 – The settlement results of the environmental cases filed by the public through “12369” tipline in July (Ministry of Environmental Protection) Quote: “Seventy-six cases filed by the public through ‘12369’ tipline were accepted and processed in July. The top three provincial tipping sources were Henan (7 cases), Jiangxi (6), and Shandong (6). All of the filed cases had been delegated to local environmental protection departments (EPDs) for investigations and settlements.” November 5, 2015 – Statement by Mr. XU Hong at the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly: Report of the ILC on the work of its sixty-seventh session (Part I) (Permanent Mission to the UN) Quote: “Let me first present my delegation’s view on the topic of ‘protection of the atmosphere’. [...] The purpose and scope of this project should be further clarified. [...] China believes that the meaning of some terms and the relationship among different terms still need further clarification. [...] We suggest that distinction be made among different types of atmospheric pollution and corresponding rules.” November 15, 2015 – Air quality to be improved in Northeast China, Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and surrounding area (Ministry of Environmental Protection) Quote: “MEP informed the media today that by the morning of November 15, the heavy pollution situation had been mitigated in Northeast China but not yet contained in Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and surrounding area. [...] MEP has required provinces in this region to make earnest efforts to cope with the heavy pollution, intensify pollution control and environmental regulation, and minimize the impact of the heavy pollution.” November 24, 2015 – Interview: China shapes green economy for next 5 years: leading U.S. ecological expert (Xinhua) Quote: “According to the proposals, ‘innovation, coordination, the environment, opening up and sharing’ will fulfill China’s economic goals for the coming years. To improve China’s environment, China will seek growth through economic transformation, optimizing industrial structure to reach the target of maintaining medium-high growth. First, continued moderate economic growth with the goal of doubling per capita GDP by 2020 from 2000 levels. Second, the embrace of green goals, standards, and measures to condition this growth. Third, the embrace of innovation, coordination and sharing.”



• **November 10, 2015 – Remarks on Climate Change and National Security** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Make no mistake: America’s choices matter to the rest of the world. I was privileged to be in Beijing last year when President Obama stood next to President Xi jointly, side-by-side, to announce our respective, ambitious post-2020 mitigation targets. That didn’t just happen. [...] And I am pleased to say that as a result of China and the United States standing up and announcing together that we would together announce our intended national determined contributions to reductions – INDCs, as they’re called – by doing that, today I can tell you that more than 150 other countries – representing nearly 90 percent of the world’s emissions – have now announced their own targets. That’s leadership.”

• **November 10, 2015 – Interview With Tony Macrini of WNIS AM 790** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: What are we going to do about it (accelerating national security impacts of climate change)? How will it positively or negatively affect the economy of the United States, and how much can we do if we don’t have people like China and India also acting in good faith? We recently – I know you saw the reports about China kind of fudging the books as to what they were actually doing with coal. So what can we do without hurting the economy and getting these other actors on board, sir?”

A: Well, actually, not to defend China because they do a lot of things that bother us, but the fact is China is the one that discovered this discrepancy and China reported it publicly. That never would have happened five years ago. But we’ve been negotiating with China, and China has come on board and has actually become a partner in helping to urge other countries to engage in countering climate change.

• **November 15, 2015 – Interview With Fareed Zakaria of CNN** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Now, that’s why President Obama reached an agreement with President Xi – a groundbreaking, historic agreement – to join together to announce the intended emissions reductions that both countries would make as part of the Paris negotiations in hopes of inspiring other countries to do the same. Well, guess what? Now over 150 countries have announced their targets for emissions reductions, including India. Now, they’re not enough yet for about anybody. We’ve all got to move more.”

• **November 30, 2015 – Will Paris climate meet herald a new era?** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Beijing announced in 2014 that the nation’s carbon emissions will peak by around 2030, and that it aimed to achieve this goal as early as possible. China is thus the first emerging economy to set an ambitious emission target for itself. China’s determination is not only part of its responsibility as the largest developing country to the entire human race, but also an urgent task for the nation’s domestic social development [...] The Chinese have realized the importance of protecting the environment as well as maintaining sustainable development, in light of which, cutting carbon emissions is closely related to reducing smog. The Chinese society is more anxious about the carbon emission reduction than the outside world, which has been busy criticizing China for generating too much emission.”



• **November 24, 2015 – Live At State With Special Envoy for Climate Change Todd Stern on COP21 in Paris** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “China announced that it was going to contribute or make available over \$3 billion for climate assistance to poor countries. We applaud that. That’s terrific. So in a system going forward, as more and more countries grow, develop, and gain the capacity to become contributors, not just recipients, we think that that’s a development that should be encouraged.”

• **November 24, 2015 – Live At State With Special Envoy for Climate Change Todd Stern on COP21 in Paris** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The biggest emitter is China – nearly twice the size of the United States at this point. China is a developing country in the context of climate negotiations. And that’s just an illustration of why we need to have both sides of this equation acting. [...] what we need to have and what we do have embedded in this agreement is the notion of nationally determined action. [...] So we have put forward a structure that says everybody’s got to act.”

• **November 24, 2015 – Press Call Briefing on the Paris Climate Change Summit** ([Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “We concluded that climate targets should be set by countries themselves, not imposed on them; that all countries should be expected to act even though developing countries faced unique challenges; and that we should expect strong transparency and accountability from all countries. That’s the deal this administration has been fighting for. As we head into Paris we’ve already seen tremendous progress, thanks to U.S. leadership. The landmark U.S.-China joint announcement of climate targets by our leaders last November marked a new era in climate diplomacy. And we now live in a new reality where China has pledged to peak its emissions, to bring online a gigawatt of clean energy every week through 2030, to implement a national cap and trade plan, and to provide billions of dollars in climate finance to poorer nations.”



• **November 30, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest and Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communications Ben Rhodes** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “I can tell you that if we get an agreement here with almost 200 countries, including China and India — if the United States were to walk away from its own targets, we would lose that type of ambition from China and India and others who would say, well, the United States has walked out on the agreement, why should we follow through? [...] agreement between the world’s two largest emitters catalyzed the commitments that we’re seeing from countries around the world [...] China has significant interests of its own in pursuing an ambitious effort to reduce emissions and to combat climate change.”

• **November 30, 2015 – Readout of the President’s Meeting with President Xi Jinping of China** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “The President met today with Chinese President Xi Jinping to reaffirm their shared determination to work together and with others to achieve an ambitious climate agreement at the Paris climate negotiations. They set priorities for U.S.-China relations in 2016. The two leaders committed to continue narrowing differences and expanding practical cooperation on regional and global challenges.”

• **November 30, 2015 – U.S.-China Joint Statement on COP21** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “President Obama and President Xi met in Paris on November 30 on the opening day of the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. [...] They recalled and reaffirmed their November 2014 Joint Announcement on Climate Change, as well as their September 2015 Joint Presidential Statement on Climate Change, which contains a common vision for the Paris Climate Conference.”



Issue 6 – Asia Pacific Issues: U.S. Emphasizes Importance of Rebalance Strategy and Pledges Support for Partners in Asia; China Holds Trilateral Summit with ROK and Japan, Highlights Desire for Cooperation with Neighbors

United States

- **November 2, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We welcome the meetings of the leaders of Japan, the Republic of Korea, and China in Seoul. We support their efforts to improve relations among the three countries. We believe strong and constructive relations between South Korea, Japan, and China support regional peace and prosperity, which serves our interests and the interests of the region.”

- **November 4, 2015 – Remarks at the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting - Plus (ADMM-Plus)** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “U.S. activities throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, through the rebalance and more broadly, are helping to build a security architecture I described and in which ASEAN remains an important part. First, we will work to build our partners’ maritime capacity and capabilities, so we can face shared challenges, together. [...] Second, we are leveraging defense diplomacy to reduce risk and promote shared rules of the road. That’s why we’re participating in so many exercises across the region, and that’s why we’ve also established four confidence-building measures with China. [...] Third, we are strengthening America’s capacity to deter conflict and coercion and respond decisively. We are adjusting our presence, posture, and operations in the region to deter aggression, support our allies and partners, and stand up for freedom of navigation. Fourth, we’re also modernizing our alliances and partnerships that are the bedrock of peace and stability. As the threat environment evolves, our partnerships will evolve, too.”

- **November 5, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: There are just days to the election to November 8th – historical election in Myanmar. I wonder if there is any plan from the (US) government to send observers to monitor the election, in particular, early voting process in the military compounds.

A: Our embassy continues to coordinate closely with representatives from international observation missions, including the European Union, the Carter Center, and the Asian Network for Free Elections. I’d also note that the United States has provided elections monitoring, training, and support to civil society organizations there, which will field 5,000 independent nonpartisan electoral advisors. And we continue to urge the Government of Burma to allow observers to access advance voting in the military compounds.”

China

- **November 2, 2015 – A hopeful step calls for substantial follow-ups** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “As anticipated, the first summit meeting between the leaders of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea after a three-year hiatus produced no surprises. The joint communiqué, comprehensive as it is, presents little more than a shared willingness to work together and find a way out of the diplomatic ice age debilitating Northeast Asia. Indeed, this short summit was more about atmosphere than about technicalities. But, for the three countries, what can possibly be more imperative than a joint statement that they have had enough of estrangement [...] From a free trade area to environmental concerns, talent exchanges, and Peninsula denuclearization, they have a lot to do together.”

- **November 2, 2015 – Explanation of Vote by Ambassador FU Cong of China on the UNGA First Committee Resolution L.26 Entitled "United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons"** ([Permanent Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “On this special occasion of historic significance (WWII), the international community should be acutely aware that cognition of history is a critical issue that has a direct bearing on whether the outcome of the World War II shall be upheld, and on whether the international order established thereafter shall be maintained. [...] Firstly, we must have a correct understanding of the cause and the effect. [...] Secondly, historical events must not be interpreted out of context. [...] Thirdly, selective amnesia should be avoided. [...] Fourthly, the right and the wrong must not be confused. [...] Fifthly, a correct criterion should be established. [...] Sixthly, tragic history must not be repeated. [...] A nation that does not have the courage to face up to its own history is in no position to take on greater international responsibilities.”

- **November 2, 2015 – Cartoon commentary on Premier Li’s ROK visit 1: Injecting new energy into Northeast Asia cooperation** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “His (Li Keqiang) visit opens a new chapter for rebooting the trilateral summit, which has been suspended for three years. As the global economy is reviving weakly and the Asia Pacific economic and trade patterns are facing adjustments, Li’s visit plays a significant role to expand regional cooperation in Northeast Asia. China, Japan and ROK are important engines to boost the Asian and global economy. [...] It’s high-time to restart the trilateral summit, which would facilitate mutual political trust and an enlargement of pragmatic cooperation, and inject new energies into a common destiny for all of Asia.”



• **November 5, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary Carter at a Sailor Event aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “Well, yeah, we are responding to — China is one of — it's the principle new, rising military power in Asia. By the way, it's not the only one. Japan is — I don't know if you know it, but they just had a constitutional change that — it allows them to operate much more widely. And Japan has got a considerable armed force, and considerable economy. [...] Now, we're very inclusive and we want everybody to be a part of that. We're not trying to cut anybody out. We're not trying to cut China out. We wanted them to be included.”

• **November 12, 2015 – Press Briefing by the Press Secretary joined by Ambassador Rice and Ben Rhodes** ([Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “At its heart, the President's rebalance to Asia is about building a rules-based order in Asia in which all countries pursue their national interests and their prosperity peacefully. We're working to strengthen respect for international norms, principles and values that offer everyone in the region an opportunity to compete and grow on an equal footing, and that certain shared responsibilities are assumed irrespective of relative size or strength.”

• **November 17, 2015 – FACT SHEET: U.S. Building Maritime Capacity in Southeast Asia** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “We are increasing the maritime security capacity of our allies and partners, to respond to threats in waters off their coasts and to provide maritime security more broadly across the region. We are not only focused on boosting capabilities, but also helping our partners develop the necessary infrastructure and logistical support, strengthen institutions, and enhance practical skills to develop sustainable and capable maritime forces.”

• **November 3, 2015 – Xi's visit to rejuvenate ties with Vietnam** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: “To begin with, Xi's visit is expected deepen the relationship between the communist parties of the two countries. [...] Xi's visit to Vietnam is also expected to promote the development of bilateral relations and trade, as well as cooperation across the border. [...] Besides, the China-led Belt and Road Initiative can be of immense help to infrastructure projects in Vietnam. [...] Competition does exist in the region but Vietnam joining the TPP will not hinder the healthy trade development with China.”

• **November 4, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “On November 1, the sixth trilateral leaders' meeting of China, Japan and the ROK was held in Seoul, the ROK, during which the three leaders had an in-depth exchange of views on trilateral cooperation and international and regional issues of common interest. The three leaders reaffirmed that they set great score by trilateral cooperation, and will properly deal with relevant issues in the spirit of facing the history squarely and looking forward to the future, deepen cooperation in the fields of politics, trade and finance, sustainable development and people-to-people exchanges, jointly make contributions to economic integration in the region, and move towards the East Asia Economic Community hand in hand so as to contribute more to the renewal of Asia and world peace and development.”

• **November 5, 2015 – Singapore needs to establish strategic relation with China, expert says** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: “Singapore and China have a special relationship with each other, not only for frequent visits of top leaders from both countries, but also for the particular cooperation mechanism set up in regular meetings between top officials, such as the vice-premier-level bilateral cooperation and regional cooperation in seven provinces and cities of the two sides.”

• **November 11, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “As a friend and neighbor of Myanmar, we are fully confident of carrying forward the traditional friendship and long-term cooperation featuring amity and mutual benefit with Myanmar. [...] China is ready to forge a community of common destiny and shared interests with neighbors including Myanmar so that China's neighbors can seize opportunities brought by China's development and achieve common growth with China.”



• **November 19, 2015 – Emerging Asia in Transition** ([Federal Reserve](#))

Quote: “At a more structural level are three recent developments whose potential importance is currently difficult to assess: the setting up of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank; the likely inclusion of the Chinese yuan in the Special Drawing Rights basket; and the possible establishment of the TPP, a partnership in which China is not expected to be a founding member. These are interesting and potentially important developments. Underlying the answer to the questions of what they portend, is the answer to the basic question of whether the economic center of gravity of the world will continue its shift of recent decades toward Asia—in particular, to China or, perhaps, to China and India. This shift would represent a return in some key respects to the global order of two centuries ago and earlier, before the economic rise of the West. A partial answer to that question is that China is for some time likely to continue to grow faster than the rest of the world and thus to produce an increasing share of global output. Its importance in the global economy is likely to increase, and it is probable that, one way or another, its growth will result in its playing a more decisive role in the international economy and in international economic institutions.”

• **November 19, 2015 – FACT SHEET : 23rd Annual APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “Under the chairmanship of Philippines President Benigno Aquino III, APEC Leaders committed to a number of concrete actions to support inclusive economic growth under the broad priorities of: 1) enhancing the regional economic integration agenda; 2) fostering Small and Medium Enterprises’ (SMEs) participation in regional and global markets; 3) investing in human capital development; and 4) building sustainable and resilient communities. The United States worked with APEC economies this year to expand trade and investment, promote shared prosperity and inclusive growth, address challenges to our health systems, and provide cleaner and more resilient communities for our citizens.”

• **November 16, 2015 – Expand Opportunities and Meet Challenges Together** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “This G20 Antalya Summit is very important given the current international landscape and circumstances. We BRICS countries need to support and collaborate with each other and further facilitate a shift of the G20 from a mere crisis-response mechanism to a long-term governance mechanism that focuses on cyclical policies and parallel structural reforms. We need to promote an open global economy and stand against trade protectionism.”

• **November 22, 2015 – Remarks by H.E. Li Keqiang Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China At the 18th China-ASEAN Summit** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “We need to enhance political mutual trust in order to strengthen the foundation for cooperation. Political trust is as important to China-ASEAN relations as a root to a tree: the deeper the root goes, the stronger the tree will grow. As neighbors, China and ASEAN countries are as close as lips and teeth. We must treat each other with respect and as equals. Peaceful development and harmonious coexistence serves our common interests.”

• **November 26, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defence](#))

Quote: “We attach importance to developing the friendly and cooperative relationship between the armed forces of China and Vietnam, and are willing to make joint efforts with the Vietnamese side to further strengthen exchanges and cooperation, and make positive contributions to safeguarding regional peace and stability.”

• **November 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China and India are important neighbors to each other [...] We are not rivals, still less threats to each other. In recent years, leaders of both countries have held frequent exchanges. [...] Leaders of both sides have a high degree of consensus, that is, both sides should enhance strategic communication, enrich China-India strategic partnership for cooperation, work together to forge a more closely-knit partnership for development, and move forward bilateral relations.”



• **November 21, 2015 – FACT SHEET: U.S.-ASEAN Relations** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “The United States is committed to this partnership for the long run and continues to deepen and broaden engagement with ASEAN and its individual member states. The ASEAN-U.S. Plan of Action 2016–2020, which the leaders endorsed at the Summit, is a symbol of this mutual commitment. The United States supports ASEAN’s central role in many of the region’s key institutions and works closely with ASEAN to strengthen Asia’s regional architecture. The United States and ASEAN have jointly undertaken a variety of activities and programs, including support for the ASEAN Economic Community and programs to strengthen people-to-people ties, like the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative. U.S.-ASEAN cooperation is also supporting sustainable growth and a strengthened rules-based system so that countries can work together to address regional challenges like climate change, human trafficking, and maritime security.”



Issue 7 – Korean Peninsula: U.S. Continues to Monitor Situation in North Korea; China Pledges Commitment to Denuclearized Korean Peninsula	
United States	China
<p>• November 1, 2015 – Media Availability with Secretary of Defense Ash Carter at the Demilitarized Zone, South Korea (Department of Defense) Quote: "Q: Hi, Mr. Secretary. Given the context that North Korea has had three nuclear tests and all indications point to there being a fourth, is there anything — anything at all in what you've seen or heard that gives you any cause for optimism that North Korea will step off the nuclear path?"</p> <p>A: Well, I — not since I've been here. But we continue — and not only the United States and South Korea, but also China and Japan and Russia and the so-called six-party talks to call for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. And so that remains our policy. We remain committed to achieving that negotiated outcome with North Korea and believe that they should be on the path to doing less and ultimately zero in the nuclear field, not to doing more."</p> <p>• November 13, 2015 – Treasury Sanctions Supporters Of North Korea's Weapons Of Mass Destruction And Illicit Finance Networks(Department of the Treasury) Quote: "The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated four individuals and one entity that have connections with the North Korean Government and North Korea's weapons proliferation efforts. Today's action is designed to counter North Korea's attempts to circumvent U.S. and United Nations (UN) sanctions, as well as maintain the effectiveness of U.S. sanctions on individuals and entities that are linked to the North Korean Government's weapons of mass destruction procurement network."</p> <p>• November 20, 2015 – Daily Press Briefings (State Department) Quote: "On the 19th of November, the U.S. joined 111 other UN members in strongly condemning the ongoing systematic widespread and gross violations of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. These egregious actions include torture, public executions, arbitrary detentions, political prison camps, and the extensive use of forced labor. We encourage the Security Council to continue to discuss the human rights situation in the DPRK and to consider the relevant recommendations of the DPRK Commission of Inquiry, including on accountability."</p>	<p>• November 2, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: "China-ROK relations enjoy a sound momentum of development. Cooperation in politics, trade, culture and other areas are moving ahead in tandem, producing fruitful results. Premier Li Keqiang and President Park Geun-hye had thorough discussions on furthering China-ROK economic cooperation and trade, and other issues including aligning development strategies of the two countries. The Chinese side will work harder to strengthen friendly cooperation with the ROK, and on top of that, make still further progress in practical cooperation across the board by blazing new trails, exploring new areas and fostering new growth points. The Chinese side stays committed to safeguarding peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula, realizing denuclearization on the Peninsula and solving problems through dialogues and consultations. The ROK side said that they value the important efforts made by the Chinese side for denuclearization, peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula and would like to have more communication and coordination with the Chinese side on the issue of the Korean Peninsula."</p> <p>• November 27, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: "Q: A preparatory meeting for the ROK-DPRK intergovernmental dialogue concluded on November 27, during which the two sides agreed to hold an intergovernmental dialogue at vice-ministerial level at the Kaesong industrial park on December 11 for discussions on improving bilateral relations. What is China's comment on that?"</p> <p>A: We welcome the relevant consensus reached by the DPRK and the ROK. It is hoped that the intergovernmental dialogue between the two countries will proceed smoothly and produce positive results."</p>



Issue 8 – Middle East and Africa Issues: U.S. Continues to Pressure Daesh and Looks for Political Solutions to Syrian Civil War; China Supports Efforts to Find Political Solution in Syria, But Balks at Becoming Directly Involved Militarily

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>● November 1, 2015 – Meet the Press Transcript - November 1, 2015 (Meet the Press) Quote: “(President Obama) In no event are we considering any kind of military action that would involve boots on the ground. I will not put American boots on the ground in Syria. The notion that the United States should be putting boots on the ground I think would be a profound mistake. And I want to be very clear and very explicit about that.”</p> <p>● November 2, 2015 – The United States and Central Asia: Partners for the 21st Century (State Department) Quote: “President Obama has announced that the United States will retain 5,500 troops beyond 2016 in order to give the new government of national unity the support it needs to implement reforms and defend its population against violent extremists that seek to impose their will. President Obama’s decision will help President Ashraf Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah to achieve an Afghanistan that is stable and peaceful, and we appreciate enormously, Mr. Prime Minister, the support of Kazakhstan and other countries across the region in that effort.”</p> <p>● November 2, 2015 – Interview With Askar Alimzhanov of Mir TV (State Department) Quote: “Well, it’s very important to operate in cooperation when you have major powers with very capable air forces. You don’t want to be flying in the same airspace without coordination. So of course we are coordinating, and we will continue to coordinate with Russia. But we’d like to be able to do more with Russia, but that depends on Russia really making the decision that they have to help settle the political part of the war. We have to deal with the future of President Assad, we have to deal with how we will find a political solution. We had a very effective meeting the other day in Vienna.”</p> <p>● November 3, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “I just want to underscore there’s an urgent need to reach a durable political solution to the crisis in Yemen through peaceful political dialogue. We are working closely with Yemeni leaders and our regional partners towards the immediate resumption of UN-facilitated peace talks between all parties.”</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>● November 3, 2015 – Statement by Mr. Liang Heng of the Chinese Delegation at the Third Committee of the 70th GA under the Items 70 & 71: Elimination of Racism and Right of Peoples to Self-Determination (Permanent Mission to the UN) Quote: “China consistently supports the Palestinian people in their just cause of realizing their right to self-determination and establishing their independent state. [...] The right to self-determination must not be arbitrarily distorted and abused as an excuse to break up sovereign states and incite hatred between ethnic groups.”</p> <p>● November 4, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “ Afghanistan is at a crucial stage of political and security transition. China supports the ‘Afghan-led, Afghan-owned’ reconciliation process, commends and supports efforts by the Afghan government to this end. The Chinese side will continue to play a constructive role in the Afghan peace and reconciliation process in line with the requests and wishes of the Afghan side.”</p> <p>● November 6, 2015 – Spotlight: Moscow, Washington adopt different stands on cause of Russian plane crash (Xinhua) Quote: “‘The Chinese people stand side by side with the Russian people (about the Russian airliner crashed in Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula) at this sorrowful moment,’ Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said on Monday.”</p> <p>● November 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “The Chinese side welcomes the larger meeting of foreign ministers from relevant countries on the Syrian issue held in Vienna the other day. This meeting is of positive significance, as it is the first time for five permanent members of the UN Security Council to consult with countries in the region on a political settlement of the Syrian issue. [...] All parties including the Chinese side support a campaign against terrorist forces including the Islamic State that have been included in the sanction list of the Security Council in accordance with resolutions of the Security Council.”</p>



• **November 3, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Russian actions so far in Syria have been to prop up the regime. Russian officials have said publicly, though, they agree that the only solution in Syria is a political transition. We’ve consistently urged Russia to focus its efforts on ISIL and to use its influence with the Assad regime to support a genuine political transition. And I’d just double-tap that and say our position on Assad has not changed.”

• **November 4, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “On your other question about the media ban or the media restrictions that Pakistan put in place, we’re certainly aware of those reports, and I would refer you to the Government of Pakistan for information on its decision. We obviously continue to urge steps to constrain militant groups operating in the region, including these two in particular – JUD and LET. LET, as you know, is a designated foreign terrorist organization. We absolutely believe that taking actions against them are fundamental to addressing the scourge of terrorism. There’s no question where we are on that [...]”

• **November 5, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: Are you telling Russia about this, ‘Don’t hit, this is where they are?’

A: There’s no coordination with the Russian military in Syria. We’ve talked about this before as well. It exists at a de-confliction level – tactical – so that professional airmanship can be observed and we have – and there’s safety of flight.”

• **November 5, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Well, we’ve long spoken, I think, Abby, to how Iran’s activities in Syria and now Russia’s are prolonging the civil conflict, enabling Assad to further attack his own people. In terms of Iranian arms transfers into Syria, we have imposed targeted sanctions on the Revolutionary Guard Corps and the Ministry of Intelligence and Security for their support for the Assad regime. And in addition to – in addition, arms exports from Iran are prohibited under UN Security Council Resolution 1747 [...] And if Russia is found to be facilitating those transfers, we’re going to raise that in the appropriate channels both bilaterally and at the UN if warranted.”

• **November 16, 2015 – Stronger will essential in fight against terrorism** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “As an enemy of mankind, terrorism can only be suppressed by joint efforts from all countries, and the attacks in Paris should be a clarion call for more concerted endeavors to rid the world of the scourge of terrorism. Thanks to its double standards and pursuit of self-interests, the US-led war against the IS extremists in Syria and Iraq has failed to deal a fatal blow to the group. It is high time that all forces that are willing to fight the evil group stepped up their cooperation and improved their strategies so that terrorism is defeated at an early date.”

• **November 20, 2015 – Murder of hostages steels will to fight IS** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “The murder of a Chinese national, along with a Norwegian citizen, by the Islamic State group is the latest atrocity committed by the terrorists. It should be condemned by all and further strengthen the shared will to eliminate terrorism. Speaking on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Manila on Thursday, Chinese President Xi Jinping expressed his deep sympathy to the victim’s family, pledging that China will resolutely crack down on any terrorist crime that challenges the bottom line of human civilization.”

• **November 20, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Since the outbreak of crisis in Syria, China has been advocating that all countries should be committed to a political settlement of the Syrian issue, as violent means lead nowhere. China has made positive efforts in promoting peace talks and has put forth the six-point proposal, the four-point initiative, the five commitments and the four steps. The central idea is to encourage all parties to cease fire and halt violence, launch an inclusive political dialogue and political transition at an early date, intensify international humanitarian assistance, and enhance international counter-terrorism cooperation. Recently, with the holding of two foreign ministers’ meetings in Vienna, the political process of resolving the Syrian issue has made important headway. We will work with all parties to build on this momentum and strive to resolve the Syrian issue as soon as possible so as to lift the Syrian people out of misery at an early date.”



• **November 6, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “So what I’d say [...] is there was nothing new in that statement from the White House briefing. It simply repeated an assessment President Obama gave last spring, and the prime minister of Israel made clear his position that the circumstances were not right for achieving a two-state solution. We have also made clear that we continue to believe that a two-state solution is absolutely vital not only for peace between Israelis and Palestinians but for the long-term security of Israel as a democratic and Jewish state. We continue to believe that the status quo is not sustainable and that current trends on the ground are imperiling the viability of the two-state solution. That’s why we will continue to engage the parties – with the parties to encourage both of them to demonstrate with their policies and actions, not just their words, their commitment to a two-state solution. And if they demonstrate that they are serious about moving forward towards a two-state solution, we will do whatever we can to help them achieve that objective.”

• **November 9, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “By definition you can’t get to a political solution in Syria without a transition away from Assad and to a more inclusive representative government, and you can’t get to that transition if you can’t have a dialogue with those who have a stake in Syria’s political future and influence over the Assad regime. And Russia and Iran have both. They have a stake in Syria. Whether we like it or not is immaterial; they do. And they also have influence over Assad. So it would be irresponsible in terms of trying to reach the final outcome if you didn’t have them at the table at some point and in some capacity to have this dialogue.”

• **November 9, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “I think I’m – our position on the TTP hasn’t changed. We still believe they’re a terrorist group [...] What we have long said is that we support an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned reconciliation process. We’ve also said that we understand [...] that not every member of the Taliban is reconcilable, and that the Taliban isn’t necessarily a monolithic group that has ultimate control over every single member. We support an Afghan-led reconciliation process with those members of the Taliban that are willing and able to participate in that. And we continue to support President Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah as they continue to pursue that in coordination and communication with their counterparts in Pakistan.”

• **November 24, 2015 – Prudence Needed over Decision to Fight IS** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The West wants to take in China to jointly combat the IS since it remains the dominator in this respect. This can help China shape a positive image in international opinion and open up a new platform for China and the West over political communication and cooperation. But this may lead to a series of risks for China to bear, which can evolve into costs in reality. China has not been fully prepared for military operations. Not having engaged in battles for many years, China may find it hard to obtain full public support if its troops fight in the far away Middle East and more uncertainties will arise.”

• **November 26, 2015 – Downing of jet must not derail anti-terror fight** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “The shooting down of a Russian fighter jet by Turkey on Tuesday is a most unfortunate incident, which has raised global concerns over the fallout between the two countries. This indeed is a testing time, but all sides concerned have to exercise restraint because their fight is against a common enemy: terrorism [...] There is need, therefore, to avoid any similar incident so that all the forces fighting the IS group can stay focused on their mission, instead of making things difficult for each other.”

• **November 26, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defence](#))

Quote: “China is willing and obliged to make more contributions in this regard. [...] The Chinese naval escort ships have encountered a lot of difficulties such as personnel recuperation, and food and POL replenishment during performing escort missions. [...] China and Djibouti are having discussions on setting up support facilities in Djibouti.”

• **November 27, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Russian President Vladimir Putin said he was waiting for an apology or an offer to compensate from the Turkish side for the downing of a Russian fighter jet. A Kremlin spokesperson also asked the Turkish side for a realistic explanation. The Turkish side replied that they have nothing to apologize for, since the downing of the plane was an automatic response in line with Turkish military’s rules. What is China’s comment?”

A: We believe that it is the international community’s joint and pressing task to fight against terrorism. All relevant parties should increase communication so as to avoid raising the tension. The international community should work hard to enhance coordination and cooperation in the counter-terrorism campaign and prevent similar incidents from happening again.”



• **November 10, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: Charles Brown basically said that the Saudis are conducting themselves professionally in bombing Yemen and so on. Do you have any comment on that? I mean, there seems to be a great many or a number of civilian victims that have been killed as a result of Saudi bombardment, but here you are. Are you supporting this effort? Are you supporting the Saudi efforts?”

A: No, I’m just – let me – and I’ll answer your question – in Yemen, and have exacerbated the violence going forward. And the reason the Saudis are there conducting these airstrikes is because of the ongoing violence stoked by Houthi rebels, but that said, there have been incidents where we’ve seen civilian casualties as a result of these airstrikes. Just like we do in conflicts around the world, we always call for restraint in conducting these kinds of airstrikes and express our concern when there are civilian casualties. [...] We don’t see a military solution to this conflict, to be frank. We want – we support the UN-led process, talks in support of a political transition, and that’s what needs to take place going forward.”

• **November 10, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We do support, supply the Peshmerga. We do that through the Iraqi military command and control, which is an important element there because this is about Iraqi – the Iraqi Government and Iraqi military being able to control its terrain and develop the capacity and capability to effectively fight and destroy ISIL. In terms of the YPG, I’m not aware of any supply drops that we’ve done for them. We do continue to assist them [...] but we do continue to support their attacks and their efforts to retake those cities controlled by ISIL through airstrikes. And that, to my knowledge, is going to continue. They’ve been an effective fighting force on the ground.”

• **November 10, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We’ve got key lines of effort identified: military support, countering ISIL’s finances, countering foreign fighter flows, exposing ISIL’s true nature, and also providing humanitarian support. I think we’ve made progress in all of those efforts. Certainly on the military front, airstrikes have been, we think, successful in liberating large parts of – let me rephrase that. Airstrikes have been effective in helping forces on the ground liberate swathes of northern Syria, but also in Iraq, that have been controlled by ISIL. Has it always been clear progress? No, of course not. And we’ve been very clear about the challenges that would come and the challenges that remain in displacing ISIL and destroying them and driving them out of the – of their – the territory that they took.”

• **November 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese side strongly condemns this violent attack on the MINUSMA, expresses deep condolences to the lost lives, and sincere sympathy to the bereaved families and the injured. The Chinese side urges relevant parties to take effective measures to ensure the safety of UN peacekeepers.”

• **November 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “According to media reports, China pledged its support to Pakistan’s bid to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). Can you confirm that?”

A: The Chinese side has noted the efforts made by non-NPT states in recent years in upholding the international non-proliferation regime. The accession of non-NPT states to the NSG deserves thorough discussion among NSG member states in accordance with relevant rules and decisions shall be made by consensus. It is worth pointing out that China’s position applies to all non-NPT states, instead of targeting any particular one.”



• **November 10, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “First thing is our position on boycotts targeting the state of Israel (by EU) has not changed. We oppose efforts to isolate to delegitimize the state of Israel. That said, the longstanding bipartisan position on – of the United States on Israeli settlements has also not changed. We believe settlements are illegitimate and are harmful to prospects to peace for peace and to Israel’s long-term security.”

• **November 11, 2015 – The Battle for Zionism at the UN: Marking 40 Years Since the Historic Speech of the Honorable Chaim Herzog** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Times may change, but one thing we do know: America’s support for Israel’s dreaming and Israel’s security, that will never change. And that is why we stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Israel here, at the United Nations, and at every international forum. That is why we speak forcefully against efforts to delegitimize or unfairly target Israel for criticism or condemnation. And it is why we remain unwavering in our pursuit of a just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians, because the vision of Israel itself is one for a Jewish state founded in democracy.”

• **November 12, 2015 – Remarks on the U.S. Strategy in Syria** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “To that end, President Obama has set for our nation three interrelated goals. We begin with Daesh. Some 14 months ago, the President made it clear that the United States was committed to the defeat and dismantlement of this terrorist organization. And over the last month, he has directed every member of his national security team to pick up the pace and move forward with ideas for degrading and defeating Daesh more rapidly, more completely, and permanently. Second, we are intensifying our diplomatic effort to finally bring an end to the civil war in Syria. And third, we are determined to support our friends in the region, and to ensure that the instability created by the Syrian crisis does not spread further beyond its borders.”

• **November 13, 2015 – Press Availability with Tunisian Foreign Minister Taieb Baccouche** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States remains deeply invested in strengthening Tunisia’s economy in order to both ensure prosperity for the people of Tunisia, but also to help address the root causes of radicalization. Today, we launched the Joint Economic Commission, which will soon stand alongside the Strategic Dialogue as a key driver of the private sector, and we held government discussions, and also to support the government discussions on the future of the bilateral relationship.”



• **November 13, 2015 – Joint Statement by the Republic of Tunisia and the United States of America** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The Minister and Secretary emphasized their strong mutual interest in bringing stability to North Africa. The Secretary highlighted President Obama’s designation of Tunisia as a Major Non-NATO Ally and welcomed Tunisia as a member of the Global Counter ISIL Coalition. Secretary Kerry confirmed that the United States will stand with Tunisia as it faces a very serious security threat. [...] Tunisia and the United States have a shared interest in increasing security cooperation to address common threats in Tunisia and across the region.”

• **November 14, 2015– Press Availability with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We agreed on the need to begin formal negotiations between representatives of the Syrian opposition and the Syrian regime, under UN auspices, with a target date of the two sides actually sitting down negotiating with each other no later, hopefully, than a target date of around January 1st. [...] We agreed on the steps – that the steps outlined in the 2012 Geneva communique present the best path forward towards an actual political transition, and we support a Syrian-led transition process within a target of six months that will: establish credible, inclusive and non-sectarian governance; set a schedule and a process for drafting a new constitution; and determine eligibility for voting and candidacy in elections. We also agreed that free and fair elections would then be held, pursuant to the new constitution, within 18 months.”

• **November 15, 2015 – Meet the Press Transcript - November 15, 2015** ([Meet the Press](#))

Quote: “(President Obama) With will redouble our efforts, working with other members of the coalition, to bring about a peaceful transition in Syria and to eliminate Daesh as a force that can create so much pain and suffering.”

• **November 17, 2015– Roundtable With Print Journalists** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “I mean, the French are part of our coalition of 65 countries. And we already have a coalition. I mean, let’s be honest here. We have spent a year working with the coalition. The French and we are flying out of the same places, in the same missions, and we’ve done so with a full exchange of information. But we have to make sure – you can always improve. You can always find a way to do more or streamline.”



• **November 17, 2015– Remarks to the Staff and Families of U.S. Embassy, Paris** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “There’s 22 percent less territory that Daesh now has available to it than it had at the beginning. And remember, a year ago right now, we didn’t have a 65-country coalition. We only started putting that together one year ago, and we’re pushing now on the finance lines; we’re pushing against foreign fighters crossing borders; we’re pushing against the distortion of Islam, our public affairs people are working at that. We have a new center in Dubai, in Abu Dhabi, that’s been opened to help in Arabic, instantaneously, gain traction on social media and push back against the lies. We’re presenting stories of disaffected former Daesh people who have come out and said life with them is nowhere near what they pretend it is, and who are telling the real stories of what happens.”

• **November 17, 2015– Remarks After His Meeting With French President Francois Hollande** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “My sense is that everybody understands that with Lebanon’s attacks, with what’s happened in Egypt, with Ankara, Turkey, with the attacks now in Paris, we have to step up our efforts to hit them at the core where they’re planning these things, and also, obviously, to do more on borders and in terms of the movement of people. But the level of cooperation could not be higher. We’ve agreed even to exchange more information, and I’m convinced that over the course of the next weeks, Daesh will feel even greater pressure.”

• **November 17, 2015– Interview With Lester Holt of NBC** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We’ve known for months that they have foreign fighters, people who have come from America, gone to Syria. We’ve been talking about that. This is why we have made going after the foreign fighter stream one of the critical components of our strategy [...] Because everybody knows there are more than 100 people who have gone from the United States of America to fight in Syria with Daesh.”

• **November 17, 2015– Interview With Lester Holt of NBC** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “So what’s critical here is to understand our strategy is clear: we are going after Daesh; we are now going after them with a heightened ability, with more people flying out of Incirlik, with now Special Forces people on the ground, with additional efforts from Syrian Arabs, from Iraqis, from Peshmerga – Kurds, all pressing in. [...] We have liberated – we, jointly with – working with the Syrian Arabs and the Kurds and others – have liberated communities, cut off Mosul from al-Raqqa, which is their supply route.”



• November 17, 2015 – Daily Press Briefings ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: Secretary Kerry has said today that the U.S. is starting an operation with Turkey to finish securing the northern Syrian border. And he said that the entire border of northern Syria, 75 percent of it has now been shut off and we are entering an operation with the Turks to shut off the other remaining 98 kilometers. Do you have any details about this operation, what’s going on and what could happen?”

A: I mean, no specific operational details. We talked a lot about that very fact, that we’ve almost shut off that border Turkey shares of the ISIL-controlled territory. It’s a matter of great concern to the Turks, obviously. It’s a threat to their border security. [...] We’re in discussions with the Turks about how to clear that last – and secure that last stretch of border. I just don’t have any more details. Those discussions are ongoing. There’s not – I don’t think it’s – there’s necessarily an operation that’s begun yet, but we’re looking at that closely.”

• November 18, 2015– Remarks at the 30th Overseas Security Advisory Council Annual Briefing ([State Department](#))

Quote: “He’s decided to put a certain number of American Special Forces on the ground in Syria in order to enable other people to be able to target and learn how to do things more effectively, and we’re confident that that will put additional pressure. And I am certain that working with everybody – if the political process works, the theory of the case is very simple: If you can get a transitioning council, if you can begin to move power to an accepted entity, then you have the ability to bring everybody in the region together to go after Daesh and ISIL, and that includes the standing army of Syria as well as the opposition together – providing you have a legitimate political process.”

• November 18, 2015 – Daily Press Briefings ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: ISIL claim to have executed a Norwegian national and a Chinese hostage. Are you aware of the report and what do you make of the conclusion that their execution was a consequence of their governments’ refusal to pay the ransoms?”

A: We’ve seen the reports. I’m not in a position to confirm it, and I’d point you to Chinese and Norwegian authorities to speak to this. But if it’s true, [...] I think it’s just yet one more example why this group needs to be defeated. [...] I can’t confirm the veracity of these reports and I wouldn’t speak to causation or anything like that. This is for the Norwegian and the Chinese Government to speak to.”



- **November 18, 2015 – Daily Press Briefings** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "I'm not aware of any efforts by the United States to persuade China to contribute militarily to the coalition. It is [...] a coalition of the willing. We're not in the business of cajoling or forcing or trying to convince members to join or to do any specific things in support of the coalition. [...] Everybody has to be willing to participate – what they can, where they can, when they can, and with whatever resources they can. And it's been successful as a coalition. [...] China has terrorism concerns as well. If there's a willingness to contribute against – in efforts against ISIL, well, that's certainly a conversation we'd be willing to have."

- **November 19, 2015 – Press Briefing by the Press Secretary, Ambassador Michael Froman, Ben Rhodes** ([Press Briefings](#))

Quote: "I think the Chinese recognize they have — I think as we look at foreign fighter flows, there have been people who have gone from China into Syria. So like every other nation who's seen that challenge, they have an interest in working with us on an intelligence basis, most likely to counter terrorism and counter ISIL."

- **November 23, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([Press Briefings](#))

Quote: "Our military strategy is predicated on taking out ISIL leaders and preventing them from establishing a safe haven. But if we're going to address the root cause of the problems inside of Syria, it's going to require a political transition and that's difficult work when you consider all of the different interests that are at stake here. That's why there are some 20-odd — 22 countries around the negotiating table, including countries with rather diverse interests, like Saudi Arabia and Iran."

- **November 24, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Colonel Warren via teleconference from Baghdad, Iraq** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: "The Turkish government announced that two of its F-16s on border patrol engaged two Russian SU-24s and one aircraft — one Russian aircraft was shot down. [...] This is an incident between the Russian and the Turkish governments. It is not an issue that involves the Combined Joint Task Force or Operation Inherent Resolve. Our combat operations against ISIL continue as planned and we are striking both Iraq and Syria."



• **November 24, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Hollande of France in Joint Press Conference** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “Today, President Hollande and I reviewed our coalition’s progress. More than 8,000 airstrikes, combined with local partners on the ground, have pushed ISIL back from territory in both Iraq and Syria. Today, President Hollande and I agreed that our nations must do even more together. U.S. assistance has supported recent French strikes in Syria, and we’re going to keep stepping up that coordination. And as we saw with the attack in Mali, the terrorist threat goes beyond ISIL. This week, I’ll sign legislation to sustain our support — including airlift and intelligence — to allies like France, as we work together to root out terrorist networks in Africa.”

• **November 25, 2015 – Treasury Sanctions Networks Providing Support to the Government of Syria, Including For Facilitating Syrian Government Oil Purchases from ISIL** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “In response to continuing violence by the Assad regime against its citizens, the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) today designated four individuals and six entities providing support to the Government of Syria pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13582, including a middleman for oil purchases by the Syrian regime from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). As a result of today’s action, all assets of those designated that are in the United States or that are in the control of U.S. persons are frozen, and U.S. persons are generally prohibited from engaging in transactions with them.”

• **November 30, 2015 – Daily Press Briefings** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Well, the efforts in this building is – as you know, sort of the counter-ISIL coalition has five components. So it’s not only a military campaign, but this is a campaign that takes a look at financing. It takes a look at messaging. It takes a look at the issue of foreign fighters. It takes a look at stabilization. And we’ve been very clear that any nation who feels like they can contribute in manner to that coalition, as long as their goals are aligned, are welcome. I’m not going to speak specifically on the China issue. Again, I’d refer you to the White House on that. But this is a broad, wide-ranging issue. And we have a lot of different threads working on this.”



Issue 9 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes: U.S. Defends Freedom of Navigation Operation and Insists More are to Come; China Calls U.S. Operation a Provocation and Urges Japan to Stay Out of the South China Sea Issue; Leaders of China and Taiwan Meet

United States

• **November 2, 2015 – Joint Press Briefing by Secretary Carter and Minister Han Min-woo in Seoul, South Korea** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: " And just to give you the U.S. position, we too do not take sides in territorial disputes, but we do staunchly stand on the side of resolving them peacefully and freedom of navigation for the reasons the minister indicated, and also the important principle that there not be any further dredging or militarization in the South China Sea. [...] For the very reason indicated by the Minister it is a vital life line we all depend, and especially north east Asia, Korea, Japan and China. And the last thing I'll say is not only that the Republic of Korea, but many countries in the region are concerned about developments in the South China Sea and that is why so many countries in the region are now just speaking for the United States, greater partnership with us in the areas of maritime security."

• **November 3, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "We welcome the steps both sides of the Taiwan Strait have taken in recent years to reduce tensions and improve cross-strait relations. The United States has a deep and abiding interest in peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. The benefits that stable and positive cross-strait ties have brought to both sides of the Taiwan Strait, the United States, and the region have been enormous. We encourage authorities in Beijing and Taipei to continue their constructive dialogue on the basis of dignity and respect."

• **November 4, 2015 – Remarks at the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting - Plus (ADMM-Plus)** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: "Freedom of navigation and the free flow of commerce are not new concepts; they are not theoretical or aspirational goals; in this part of the world, these rules have worked for decades to promote peace and prosperity. What is new is the intensive and aggressive reclamation of features in the South China Sea. Make no mistake: these new facts will not change what we've always done. The United States will continue to fly, sail, and operate wherever international law allows. Recently in Washington, President Xi said China, one claimant, is 'committed to respecting and upholding the freedom of navigation and overflight that countries enjoy according to international law,' and pledged that China 'does not intend to pursue militarization' of outposts in the South China Sea. This is a positive step, but we all must mean what we say. "

China

• **November 2, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "As a Chinese saying goes, there won't be any trouble in the world, unless people look for trouble themselves. I wonder what on earth these people are concerned about. Is it about navigation freedom? However, as we have all seen, there are over 100,000 ships from countries around the world sailing safely and freely through the South China Sea every year with no problem at all. According to the US media, there are over 15 million barrels of oil being shipped to East Asia every day via the Strait of Malacca and the South China Sea with no problem at all. "

• **November 3, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "The so-called issue of freedom of navigation in the South China Sea is a pseudo-proposition. There are over 100,000 ships from countries around the world sailing safely and freely through the South China Sea every year. According to the US media, there are over 15 million barrels of oil being shipped to East Asia every day via the Strait of Malacca and the South China Sea. They run into no problem at all. The international waterway is wide enough for the US vessel. Why did it choose to take the detour to show its strength in waters off the relevant islands and reefs of the Nansha Islands and try to justify it in the name of safeguarding navigation freedom? It is blatant provocation. "

• **November 3, 2015 – Xi's visit to rejuvenate ties with Vietnam** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "Ostensibly, the US said that its naval mission was conducted to reinforce the principle of freedom of navigation in international waters. But China has never acted in any way to restrict international navigation nor does it intend to. [...] if the US can provoke China into asserting its claims more forcefully, then Washington can turn around to its Asian allies and point to the necessity of protection from an aggressive China. "



• **November 4, 2015 – U.S.-Asia Policy Update** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The U.S. doesn’t have a claim, and we don’t endorse any one sovereignty claim over another. We simply insist that all claims, territorial and maritime, be made based on international law, and that differences be addressed peacefully through diplomatic or legal means. This means no violence, no coercion, no threats. We also insist that behavior by all countries respect unimpeded lawful commerce and be consistent with international law, including long-standing, universal principles such as freedom of navigation and the peaceful resolution of disputes.”

• **November 6, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “As I’ve said before, freedom of navigation operations by the United States Navy are not aimed at any one nation. International waters are international waters. And the Navy not only has a right to be there, but every other navy does too. That’s what being international waters means. And we also have a fundamental principal obligation – our Navy – to defend that freedom of navigation, not just for the United States but for everybody else who needs to use the high seas for transit.”

• **November 7, 2015 – Meeting Between Cross-Strait Leaders** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States has a deep and abiding interest in peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, and we encourage further progress by both sides toward building ties, reducing tensions, and promoting stability on the basis of dignity and respect. The United States remains committed to our one China policy, based on the Three Joint Communiqués and the Taiwan Relations Act.”

• **November 12, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: "Q: I understand that some B-52 bombers flew over the man-made Chinese islands in the South China Sea several days ago. Is it true that China contacted the aircraft, reiterating their claims to the territory? What can you tell us about those flights?

A: I know that we conduct B-52 flights in international airspace in that part of the world all the time. And my understanding is there was one B-52 flight — and I'm not even sure the date on it but there was an effort made by Chinese ground controllers to reach out to that aircraft, and that aircraft continued that mission unabated. Nothing changed.”

• **November 4, 2015 – US should respect China’s sovereignty, core interests** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “China deems the US move a provocation that undermines its sovereignty and security interests, while the US insists it was meant to assert the right of free passage. In a clear signal that the US is not paying due attention to China’s rightful concerns, US Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes said on Monday that there would be more such operations. Under such circumstances, without proper risk management the current feud over the US’ provocative move will only escalate and could even lead to confrontation.”

• **November 5, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese side has made its principled position clear on many occasions. The Chinese side respects and safeguards all countries’ freedom of navigation and overflight guaranteed by international law. As long as it is the genuine practice of navigation freedom through real international shipping lanes, we will in no way oppose it. What we are against is the attempt to militarize the South China Sea and even challenge and threaten other countries’ sovereignty and security interests under the name of navigation freedom. It is hoped that the US side can be more candid and honest about its actions and intentions.”

• **November 5, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The South China Sea is China’s major corridor for cargo and energy transportation. As the largest littoral state of the South China Sea, we attach great importance to navigation freedom there. China and other littoral states have been jointly upholding peace and stability of the South China Sea. As all of you can see, the general situation there is stable. Navigation and overflight freedom has never been affected at all. China and ASEAN states are making efforts to fully and effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), and promote maritime practical cooperation and steadily move forward consultations on the COC under the framework of the DOC. Relevant consultations are making important progress. Defense ministers from China and ASEAN states had an informal meeting in Beijing the other day. State Councilor and Defense Minister Chang Wanquan raised a five-point proposal on enhancing defense and security cooperation between China and ASEAN states, which was warmly received by the ASEAN states. We stand ready to uphold peace and stability of the South China Sea together with ASEAN countries.”



• **November 12, 2015 – Press Briefing by the Press Secretary joined by Ambassador Rice and Ben Rhodes** ([Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “Well, let me address the question about the code of conduct and maritime issues in the South China Sea. Obviously, this will be a central issue of discussion, both at the East Asia Summit as well as the ASEAN-U.S. Summit and the other engagements that we have throughout our visit to Asia. Our view has always been that these disputes need to be resolved through peaceful, legal means and that the establishment of an implementation of a code of conduct agreed among the leaders of the region, the states of the region, and in particular the claimants, would be a positive step forward. This, though, is not a U.S. agreement or U.S. code. It’s one that would need to be implemented by the parties involved.”

• **November 13, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q : Department of Defense verified that there was a flight operation conducted in South China Sea airspace. Susan Rice also said yesterday that South China Sea issue will be the central issue of discussion in President Obama’s upcoming Asia visit. But China said it shouldn’t have to have any discussion of South China Sea in APEC meetings. From U.S. side, will you have any response to that in terms of reaching a code of conduct and settle those maritime issues in South China Sea?”

A: Without saying it’s necessarily going to be on the agenda at APEC, we’re going to continue to talk to our partners and allies, as well as with China, and be very clear about our concerns about the South China Sea and our position and belief that – and freedom of navigation.”

• **November 17, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Aquino of the Republic of the Philippines after Bilateral Meeting** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “We discussed the impact of China’s land reclamation and construction activities on regional stability. We agree on the need for bold steps to lower tensions, including pledging to halt further reclamation, new construction, and militarization of disputed areas in the South China Sea. As President Aquino indicated, disputes need to be resolved peacefully. That’s why the United States supports the Philippines’ decision to use arbitration under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea to peacefully and lawfully address differences.”

• **November 5, 2015 – Freedom of navigation a 'nonissue' and 'no excuse for provocations'** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “State Councilor and Minister of National Defense Chang Wanquan has said that the so-called freedom of navigation issue in the South China Sea is ‘a false proposition’, and therefore it cannot be taken as ‘an excuse for provocations’. [...] ‘Since there is not any issue over navigation freedom in the South China Sea, it should not become a topic for hyping, not to mention an excuse for provocations,’ Chang said. [...] ‘The US action aims at encouraging countries such as the Philippines to further challenge China on the South China Sea issue,’ Zhang said.”

• **November 5, 2015 – Xi-Ma meet deserves the world’s applause** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The Xi-Ma meeting is a major breakthrough in relations between Taiwan and the mainland. It will exert a positive influence on the island’s future policy toward the mainland and lay a firm foundation for the way the world perceives this relationship. [...] the historic meeting is supported by the wholeworld, including the US.”

• **November 7, 2015 – Xi-Ma meeting hailed as "historic page" in cross-Strait relations** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Calling both sides ‘brothers who are still connected by our flesh even if our bones are broken,’ Xi told Ma that ‘at present, we are at the crossroads for choosing the direction and path for future development in cross-Strait relations.’ ‘We are sitting together today to prevent the historical tragedy from repeating itself, prevent the fruits from peaceful development of cross-Strait ties from being lost again, enable compatriots across the Strait to continue to create a peaceful life, and enable our next generations to share a bright future,’ Xi said.”

• **November 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese side stays committed to peacefully resolving relevant disputes with countries directly concerned through negotiations and consultations on the basis of respecting historical facts and international law, and jointly safeguarding peace and stability of the South China Sea with ASEAN countries. China’s position as mentioned is reasonable, justified and lawful. The US side has no right to point an accusing finger at us. In disregard of China’s opposition, the US side insisted on sending military vessels to nearby waters of relevant islands and reefs of the Nansha Islands. It constitutes a grave damage to China’s sovereignty and security, and heightens regional tension. Facts have given us a clear idea of who is breaching the international order and creating troubles.”



• **November 19, 2015 – Press Briefing by the Press Secretary, Ambassador Michael Froman, Ben Rhodes** ([Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “Well, first of all, there’s much that we’re doing (in the South China Sea). We, ourselves, have conducted and will continue to conduct freedom of navigation operations as appropriate. We just announced the other day \$250 million in maritime security assistance for our Southeast Asian partners. So the United States, through its military presence and through its security assistance, is demonstrating that we are going to uphold these basic principles [...] We’ve made clear to China our opposition to the militarization of the South China Sea and continued reclamation. That, by the way, applies not just to China, it applies to other countries, because we’re seeing the potential risk of other countries continuing to take those actions. So we’d like to see that activity stop. China has made commitments that they’re not going to pursue the militarization of the South China Sea, and we’re going to have to monitor whether or not that’s the case.”

• **November 19, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and Prime Minister Abe of Japan Before Bilateral Meeting** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “I also want to express my appreciation for the hard work that Shinzō has been involved with in building up stronger regional understandings — the trilateral meetings that have been taking place between Japan, China, and South Korea I think are especially important. And Shinzō and I both share an interest in continuing to foster rule of law, supporting international norms in areas like freedom of navigation and maritime law. And, again, this bilateral gives us an opportunity to examine how we can work with some of the regional organizations like ASEAN in order to continue to maintain the stability that has been the hallmark of this region and has allowed for extraordinary prosperity and growth.”

• **November 11, 2015 – Washington losing leverage in S.China Sea** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “We think that US officials have to keep adjusting the tone on the South China Sea issue for multiple reasons, particularly to play diplomatic tricks in Asia. Chinese have been regarding the US in the South China Sea as a paper tiger. We are convinced that the US warship patrol is for symbolic posture, not for taking real action toward China’s island building. Washington actually has lost points after its latest move in the South China Sea.”

• **November 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Two B-52 strategic bombers sent by the US Pentagon flew across the airspace above the Nansha Islands claimed by China on November 8, but did not come within 12 nautical miles off the relevant islands and reefs. What is China’s comment on that? Will China take any countermeasures?”

A: The Chinese side has learnt about that. I want to stress once again that the Chinese side respects the freedom of navigation and over-flight in the South China Sea to which all countries are entitled under international law, but stands firmly against any country’s attempt to breach international law and undermine China’s sovereignty and security interests under the pretext of navigation and over-flight freedom.”

• **November 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The construction activities by China on some islands and reefs of the Nansha Islands fall completely within the realm of China’s sovereignty, targeting and affecting no one. There is nothing disputable about that. Japan is not a party involved in the South China Sea issue. Historically, the Nansha Islands were once snatched away by Japan, but recovered by the Chinese government after the war. When China and Japan normalized their diplomatic relations in the 1970s, Japan promised to abide by the relevant regulations in the Potsdam Proclamation. Japan has no right to make inappropriate remarks on the sovereignty of the Nansha Islands. We urge countries outside the region to watch their words and actions, and respect the efforts made by regional countries to maintain peace and stability of the South China Sea.”



• **November 21, 2015 – Joint Statement on the ASEAN-U.S. Strategic Partnership** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “We (ASEAN-U.S.) reaffirm the importance of maintaining peace and stability, ensuring maritime security and safety, and freedom of navigation including in and over-flight above the South China Sea. We reaffirm the collective commitments contained in the Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) to ensure the resolution of disputes by peaceful means in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the relevant regulations, standards and recommended practices of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), without resorting to the threat or use of force and while exercising self-restraint in the conduct of activities. We support ASEAN-China on-going efforts to fully and effectively implement the DOC in its entirety, and to work toward the expeditious conclusion of an effective Code of Conduct (COC).”

• **November 23, 2015 – Readout of the Plenary Meeting of the Global Coalition to Counter-ISIL** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Vice President Biden also reconfirmed the unwavering commitment of the United States to work with coalition partners to degrade and destroy this unprecedented terrorist threat. [...] He (Brett McGurk) emphasized that while we will continue to increase pressure on ISIL at its core, we need to do more as a coalition to coordinate our efforts and pressure ISIL across its global network.”

• **November 23, 2015 – Daily Press Briefings** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Our policy regarding the building up of anything on or the construction of anything on the South China Sea hasn’t changed. We encourage all claimant states regarding the South China Sea to take concrete steps to reduce tensions, and we want to see a reciprocal halt among claimants to any land reclamation, any new construction, and further militarization of outposts along the South China Sea.”

• **November 30, 2015 – U.S.-Brunei High Level Officials' Meeting** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The U.S. delegation met with senior Bruneian ministers to discuss how the United States and Brunei Darussalam can further enhance their bilateral relationship. [...] The two countries discussed enhancing security ties, increasing military-to-military cooperation, and advancing a rules-based order to maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea.”

• **November 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: First, the Japanese government said that a Chinese naval vessel was spotted in waters near Diaoyu Dao. It seemed that the naval vessel was not simply passing by. What is your comment on that?”

A: On your first question, China's position on the issue of Diaoyu Dao is clear and consistent. The normal activity by the Chinese naval vessel in the relevant waters is completely in line with international law, and is beyond reproach.”

• **November 16, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “We have made clear China's position on many occasions. APEC is the most important forum for economic cooperation and trade in the Asia-Pacific. It is not a proper venue to talk about the issue of the South China Sea, and must not create convenience or conditions for the introduction of sensitive issues such as those in political and security fields. The host country, the Philippines, has stated clearly that sensitive issues concerning politics and security will not be discussed. We hope that all participants would jointly secure the nature of APEC as an economic forum, focus on development and cooperation, create a favorable atmosphere for the meeting and ensure it a success.”

• **November 17, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese side is dissatisfied with what the Japanese side has done. Japan is not a party concerned in the South China Sea issue. Instead of watching its words and deeds, Japan has been hyping up the South China Sea issue. Japan's relevant words and deeds run counter to the momentum of improving bilateral ties and undercut regional stability and development. We urge the Japanese side to stop making groundless accusations on the South China Sea issue, abide by the four political documents between China and Japan, implement the four-point principled agreement reached between the two sides last year, work with China towards the same direction, and ensure the continuous improvement of bilateral ties with concrete actions.”



• **November 23, 2015 – Premier’s proposal clarifies stand on South China Sea** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “Chinese Premier Li Keqiang’s five-point proposal on the South China Sea is the country’s latest effort and commitment to maintain peace and stability in the waters. Speaking at the East Asia Summit in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur on Sunday, Li called on countries outside the region to refrain from taking actions that may raise tensions in the region and urged the countries directly concerned to peacefully settle the sovereignty and jurisdiction disputes in accordance with relevant international law through consultations and negotiations. Li also suggested that all countries undertake to exercise and uphold freedom of navigation and overflights in the South China Sea in accordance with international law. His proposal should help clarify misunderstandings and quell unnecessary concerns.”

• **November 26, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defence](#))

Quote: “We hope the US side will stop pretending to be innocent, and stop creating troubles out of a fake issue and stirring up regional tension. The military vessels and aircraft of the United States entered the relevant waters near the features of the Nansha Islands in the South China Sea for the purpose of provocation. This has severely threatened China’s sovereignty and security and endangered regional peace and stability. The Chinese military forces will take all necessary measures to safeguard national sovereignty, security and maritime rights and interests.”

• **November 26, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defence](#))

Quote: “Japan is not a relevant party in the South China Sea issue and we are always opposed to countries out of the region to interfere in such kind of affairs. [...] In history, Japan also patrolled the South China Sea in 1930s and 1940s, which resulted in its occupation of China’s Nansha Islands and its invasion in countries around the South China Sea like the Philippines, inflicting severe sufferings upon the people in the region. We urge Japan to do more for peace and stability in the South China Sea and for improving Sino-Japanese relations.”



• **November 26, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defence](#))

Quote: "China has sovereignty over the features of the Nansha Islands and their adjacent waters. And we have the right to construct civilian facilities and necessary military facilities on our own territory. And the military facilities are purely for defensive purpose and of a limited scale."

• **November 26, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defence](#))

Quote: "Q: The Obama administration had decided to announce its 1 billion dollar arms sale to Taiwan in the middle of next month. The report also said Washington had been prepared for a strong reaction from Beijing. Could you please tell us what kind of countermeasures China has for such arms sale?"

A: The Taiwan issue bears upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is a core interest of China. Our determination to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity is unswerving. We are resolutely opposed to any country's arms sale to Taiwan. This is our consistent position."

• **November 26, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defence](#))

Quote: "Q: Will China consider establishing an Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) in the South China Sea in face of such situation?"

A: To designate or establish an Air Defense Identification Zone is the sovereign right of a country. [...] We hoped that the US side can do more for regional peace and stability, rather than on the contrary."

• **November 26, 2015 – China urges U.S., Japan not to flex muscles on South China Sea** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "We call on relevant countries to do things that contribute to peace and stability on the South China Sea and refrain from flexing muscles, creating tension or militarizing the area,' Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said [...] 'There is no problem with freedom of navigation. We urge the U.S. not to be provocative under this pretext,' Defense Ministry spokesperson Wu Qian said [...] 'The Chinese military will take all the necessary measures to safeguard national sovereignty, security and maritime rights,' Wu added."



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- This report was produced with the help of Jihye An (Dongguk University), Elizabeth Burris (Yonsei University), Bokyung Choi (Korea University), Lamyae Dahbi (Sungkyunkwan University), Gordon Gatlin (Yonsei University), Diana Kang (Seoul National University), Boyun Kim (University of California - Berkley), Sola Kim (Kwangwoon University), Geun Park (Seoul National University), Kyuhyun Park (Yonsei University), Heerang Woo (Korea University).

The East Asia Institute
909 Sampoong B/D, Eulji-ro 158,
Jung-gu, Seoul 04548,
Republic of Korea

